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A
Geographical and Historical *Thax*
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
Principal Objects
OF THE
Present WAR in the *West-Indies*.

VIZ.

<i>Cartagena,</i>		<i>The Havana,</i>
<i>Puerto Bello,</i>		and
<i>La Vera Cruz,</i>		<i>San Agustin.</i>

SHEWING THEIR
SITUATION, STRENGTH,
TRADE, &c.

WITH

An ACCOUNT of the many SIEGES they
have Undergone to the present Time.

THE WHOLE

Compiled from the most *Authentic Memoirs*, and
Enlarged with many *Curious Particulars*, not
to be met with in former Authors.

To which is prefix'd

An Accurate MAP of the *West-Indies* adapted
to the WORK.

L O N D O N:

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P R E F A C E.

THE Design of this Undertaking is not only to give a much more complete and accurate Account than has been given by others, of the Places mentioned in the Title Page, (which are, with regard to Britain, the principal Objects of the present War in those Parts) but also to shew the Possibility of their being subdued, and the manner in which they may be taken, by giving an Account of their Strength, and the several Sieges they have from time to time undergone.

Memoirs of this kind may be necessary for the Information not only of the Public at home, but also of the Officers sent on Foreign Expeditions; who often, for want of being sufficiently acquainted with the Nature of Countries and Coasts, Strength of Places, and other Circumstances, miscarry in their Attempts; whereof History, both antient and modern, furnishes numerous Instances.

This Work may answer another End; for as the whole Body of the Nation is convinced of the absolute Necessity of getting Possession of some Place in the Spanish West-Indies, as the only possible Means of securing the British

P R E F A C E.

tish Trade thither, every Reader, by considering the Situation and Nature of the Places here described, may the better judge which would be most proper for the Purpose, as well as of the Force of the Arguments advanced to prove, that the Havana is the only Place which can in any wise answer the aforesaid End, or that we might keep Possession of, without giving just Offence to the other Maritime Powers.



C O N T E N T S.

INTRODUCTION.

T H E most important Ports in the Spanish West-Indies. *Wealth of Spain; Its Sources; How convey'd to Europe. West-Indian Fleets. Register Ships; Galleons; Flota; Flotilla. Setting out of the Fleets from Cadiz. Course followed by the Flota; By the Galleons. Winds and Currents in the Way. Return of the Fleets. They meet at the Havana. Course from thence. Danger of the Gulph of Florida. No going and returning the same Way. Distances.* From p. 1. to p. 10.

Of C A R T A G E N A.

S E C T. I. *Description of the City and its Harbour. Its Situation. Suburbs. When Founded. Its Largeness and Buildings. Strength and Fortifications. Government. Bishoprick. Wealth. Trade in Pearls, &c. Climate, Air, Soil, and Produce. Its Condition in 1671. Latitude and Longitude by Observation.* From p. 10. to p. 22.

S E C T. II. *An Account of the taking Cartagena by Sir Francis Drake in 1588. — Occasion of the Expedition. Number of Ships and Men. Burning of San Jago. Treachery and Cruelty of the Spaniards. San Domingo taken and burned. The Resistance made by the Spaniards.* From p. 22. to 32.

S E C T. III. *The taking of Cartagena by Six French Privateers; and afterwards by M. de Pointis, and the Bucaniers in 1697. Description of Boca chica Fort. Fort Lazaro, and Hihimani taken. Loss on both Sides. Articles of Capitulation. Value of the Plunder. Cruelties of the French. The Blowing up of Boca chica. The Bucaniers dissatisfy'd with De Pointis. They return*

to

CONTENTS.

to Cartagena and plunder it a second Time. Are met by the English at Sea, and lose most of their Booty. From p. 32. to p. 59.

OF PUERTO BELLO.

SECT. I. Description of the City and its Harbour. The Mirias. The Bastimentos. The Island Buena Aventura. Errors of several Authors. Its Latitude and Longitude. Of the Town. Its Strength and Forts in 1679 and 1739. Of the Iron Castle, Gloria and Geronimo Castles. Wafer's Description of it. Its Trade. The Ways of conveying Goods from the South-Sea. A particular Account of the Fair. From p. 59. to p. 77.

SECT. II. The taking Puerto Bello in 1595 by Sir Francis Drake, and by Captain Parker in 1601. Drake's last Voyage. State of Puerto Bello then. Captain Parker's Expedition. He takes Cabagua, Burns Triana, and plunders Puerto Bello. His Plan of the Town and Harbour. From p. 77. to p. 87.

SECT. III. The taking of Puerto Bello by Sir Henry Morgan in 1669. Its Strength at that Time. He forces the Castles of San Jago, and San Miguel. The Bravery of the Governor. Excesses of the Pyrates. The Town plundered. The President of Panama comes to relieve it, but retreats surprized at the English Valour. It is ransomed. Vast Booty. From p. 87. to p. 96.

SECT. IV The Surprizing and Plundering of Puerto Bello by Captain Croxen, La Sound, and other Privateers in 1678-9. From p. 96 to p. 99. [The Reader is desired to observe that the Pages from p. 96. to p. 105 are numbered wrong.]

SECT. V. A full and particular Account of

CONTENTS.

the taking Puerto Bello by Vice Admiral Vernon, with Six Ships only, in 1739. The Occasion of his being sent to the West-Indies. He sets out for Puerto Bello. The Names of his Men of War and their Commanders. He enters the Harbour. The Hampton-Court begins the Attack on the Iron Castle. The Admiral expos'd to great Danger before it; Drives the Spaniards from the Lower Battery; Sends Men to Land under the Walls of the Fort. The Lower Battery taken. The Castle Surrender'd. Defence made by the Gloria Castle. Attacked by the Admiral's Ship. The Governor Surrenders it on the Admiral's Terms. The Crews of the Guarda Costas plunder the Town. The Castles blown up. The South-Sea Factors delivered to the Admiral. The Humanity and Bravery of the English. The Insolence and Ingratitude of Don Blas, and how punish'd by the Admiral. From p. 99. to p. 112.

SECT. VI. *An Account of Admiral Vernon's taking and blowing up the Castle of Chagre. He Bombards Cartagena, and the Castle of San Lorenzo. The latter Surrenders and is Demolish'd.* From p. 112. to p. 116.

SECT. VII. *Of the taking of Chagre by Captain Morgan. He fits out a large Fleet, and seizes the Island of Providence. Castle of San Lorenzo Described. 'Tis Assaulted by the Bucaniers, Fired by Accident and taken. Loss of the Bucaniers.* From p. 116. to p. 123.

OF LA VERA CRUZ.

SECT. I. *Description of the Town and its Port. Two Towns of that Name. Old La Vera Cruz, the Landing Place of Cortez. Its Situation. Unhealthy Air. Bad Port. New La Vera Cruz.*
Its

CONTENTS.

- Its Magnitude, Buildings, Inhabitants, Air, Situation, Strength. Isle and Castle of San Juan de Ulua. The Port incommoded with North Winds. How entered. Islands near it. Isle of Sacrifices. Trade of La Vera Cruz. Its Fair. Errors of Geographers. From p. 132. to p. 138.*
- SECT. II. *An Account of Captain Hawkins's Adventure at San Juan de Ulua. From p. 138. to p. 144.*
- SECT. III. *The taking and plundering of La Vera Cruz by Van Horn a Dutchman in 1688. From p. 144. to p. 152.*
- SECT. IV. *Of the taking and plundering La Vera Cruz another time. From p. 152 to p. 155.*
- Of the H A V A N A.
- SECT. I. *A Description of the City and its Harbour, Strength, Trade, Foundation, Inhabitants, Diet, Provision for the Fleets, Jurisdiction, Soil, Latitude and Longitude. Errors of the Maps. Its Castles. Fortifications. Importance to Britain. How to Attack it. What Time fittest. Necessity of Conquering it. From p. 155 to p. 178.*
- Of S A N A G U S T I N.
- SECT. I. *A Description of the Town, and its Port, Strength, Rise and Progress, Britain's Title to it. From p. 178 to p. 182.*
- SECT. II. *The taking of the Town and Fort of San Agustín by Sir Francis Drake. From p. 182. to p. 186.*
- SECT. III. *An Account of the Attack made by the English upon San Agustín since the Time of Sir Francis Drake; particularly the Siege carryed on this present Year 1740, by General Oglethorpe. From p. 186 to the End.*



A

GEOGRAPHICAL and HISTORICAL

DESCRIPTION

OF

*Cartagena, Puerto Belo, La Vera
Cruz, the Havana, and San
Agustin, &c.*

INTRODUCTION.



ALTHO' there are many very fine *Most im-*
Ports in the *Spanish West Indies*, yet *portant*
none are of so great Importance as *Ports in the*
those under our Consideration, espe- *West-In-*
cially the first four ; in regard all the *dies.*
Treasures of *America*, as well as what
goes in Return from *Europe*, pass through these
Places, and is for some Time lodged there. To this
they owe their present flourishing Condition, and,
were it not for the Unhealthiness of the Air, *La Vera*
B *Cruz*

INTRODUCTION.

Cruz and *Puerto Belo* might vie for Riches with *Cartagena* and the *Havana*. On this Account also the *Spaniards* have fortify'd them from time to time, to defend their Treasures from the Attempts of their Enemies, or the Pyrates; who for a long Course of Years gave them continual Vexation, and sometimes forc'd those Ports, carrying away immense Riches. Thus, by degrees, they had been brought to such a Condition of Strength, that, till *Puerto Belo* was taken last Year by Admiral *Vernon*, they were deem'd by the *Spaniards* to be impregnable; and some among ourselves imagined that the weakest of them could not be taken with fewer than threescore Men of War.

BUT the Importance of these Places will better appear, if, before we proceed to the Description of them, we give an Account of the Navigation to and from the *West-Indies*; and in what manner the Wealth of *Spain* passes through these Ports.

Spanish
Riches.

Its Course.

THE *Spaniards* have two great Sources of Wealth, their Dominions in *America*, and their Settlements in the *East-Indies*. The Gold of the *Nuevo Reyno*, or *New Kingdom of Granada*, with the Pearls of *Margarita* Island, and other Commodities, are carry'd to *Cartagena*; the Silver of *Peru*, and Gold of *Chili*, with the Merchandizes of those Countries, are sent to *Puerto Belo*; and the Treasures of *Mexico* and the *Philippine* Islands are conveyed to *La Vera Cruz*; from which Ports they are shipp'd for *Spain*.

How con-
vey'd to
Europe.

THE Riches of the *South Sea* and *Philippine* Islands ought properly to be brought home by long Sea: But the *Spaniards* have thought fit to turn them out of their natural Course, and send them across the Continent of *America*, a much longer Way

INTRODUCTION.

3

Way about, and at double or treble the Expence, for the Conveniency of throwing their Trade into one Channel, and bringing home their Riches all in one Fleet. Accordingly, instead of sending home the Treasure of the *Philippine* Islands round *Africa* by the *Cape of Good Hope*, it is convey'd to *Acapulco*, the Port of *Mexico* in the South Sea; whence it is sent by Land to that Capital, and thence forwarded with the Merchandizes of the several Parts of *New Spain* to *La Vera Cruz*, where they are all shipped on board the *Flota* for *Europe*. In like manner, the Gold and Silver that comes from *Peru* and *Chili*, instead of being sent the nearest Way to *Europe* round *South America*, or, which would be the better way, down the River *De la plata* to *Buenos Ayres*, where it might be shipped, it is carry'd to *Panamá*, a Port in the narrowest Part of the Isthmus of *America*; from whence it is transported by Land to *Puerto Belo*.

FOR conveying home the Treasures from the West-Indian Fleets; several Ports, Fleets are sent every Year (if possible) from *Cadiz*. This Voyage is called *Carrera des Indias*, or *the Rout of the Indies*, and is divided into two Parts; the first to *La Vera Cruz*, the second to *Puerto Belo*. Each Fleet consists of Men of War and Merchant-Ships, which trade for private Persons: For the first ought to carry nothing but on the King of *Spain's* Account; however, they are usually so incumbered with the Goods of other People, that it is seldom possible to defend them, when attacked. Besides these, there are *Register-Ships*, so called because they have a Register-Ships. Permission from the King, or the Council of the *Indies*, which is registered to prevent incurring the Penalties of sailing thither without such License. These trade chiefly to *San Domingo*, *Puerto Rico*, *B 2* *Honduras*,

INTRODUCTION.

Honduras, and other Ports. They ought not to exceed 300 Tons, and are indeed register'd as containing no more, tho' they are at least double that Burden ; the Officers of the Crown being as corrupt in *Spain* as they are every where else, tho' none deal with more Honour and Integrity than the *Spanish* Merchants.

The Gal-
leons.

THE King's Ships, designed for *Puerto Belo*, are call'd *Galleons*, being old-fashion'd Men of War, of prodigious Bulk, with three or four Decks. They are eight in Number ; the five principal are named *La Capitana*, *La Admirante*, *Il Governo*, *La Patacha*, and *La Margarita*, carrying each fifty Brass Guns. The Merchantmen who accompany them are twelve or fifteen, and very large.

The Flota.

THE Fleet consign'd to *La Vera Cruz* is called the *Flota*. The Men of War are usually *La Capitana*, *La Admirante* and *La Patacha*. The Number of Merchantmen is sixteen, from 400 to 1000 Tuns each. But the Cargo of the *Flota* is not near so rich as that of the *Galleons*. The Merchantmen carry out Wines, Figs, Raisins, Olives, Oyls, Cloth, Kerfies, Linnen, Iron and Quicksilver for the *American* Mines ; bringing back, in return, the Merchandizes bought at the respective Ports, where there are Fairs held for the Purpose, the greatest perhaps in all the World. There are usually two or three Vessels employ'd to carry the Quicksilver ; and these are what are called the *Affogue-Ships*.

Flotilla.

OUT of these two is form'd a third Fleet called the *Flotilla*, or little *Flota*. But this is not done till they arrive at the *Havana*, in their Return home ; from whence they dispatch a few Ships to *Europe*, which, besides their proper Cargoes, carry an Account of what is on board the *Galleons* and the *Flota*.

THE

INTRODUCTION.

THE Fleets are generally about two Years *Setting out* making their Voyage, but do not always set out *of the Fleets* together, tho' they generally return together. The *from Cadiz.* Time of sailing for the *Flota* is from the beginning of *April* to the end of *May*, that they may arrive at the Islands before *September*, when the North Winds and Hurricanes begin. The *Galleons* depart in *August* and *September*, that they may come to *Puerto Beló* in *November*, and so forward, when the North Winds beginning to blow render the Coasts less unhealthy than at other times. A late Author on the contrary says, the *Flota* always sails in *August*; the *Galleons* whenever they are laden; tho' usually two or three Months before the other.

THE Course of the Fleet is first from *Cadiz* *Course fol-* to the *Canary-Islands*: Here they anchor in *Grand lowed.* *Canaria* or *Gomera*. From hence they sail to the *Antilles*. Thus far the two Fleets keep Company, when they sail together, as they sometimes do: Then separating, the *Galleons* bear away for *Cartagena*, and the *Flota* for *La Vera Cruz*; the Register-Ships also drop off from time to time to make the best of their way to their respective Ports.

THE *Flota* holds on its Course strait forward, *By the* and calling at *Puerto Rico* to take in Water and *Flota.* Provisions, passes in sight of *Hispaniola*, *Jamaica* and *Cuba*, keeping at a Distance from the Coast to avoid Shoals and Rocks, particularly the *Jardinas de la Reyna*, or *The Queen's Gardens*; then leaving the *Isle of Pines* a little on the right Hand, it doubles *Cape Corientes*, and comes up with *Cape San Antonio*, the most Western Point of all *Cuba*; from whence it passes over the Gulf of *Mexico* to *La Vera Cruz*, which lies at the bottom thereof; keeping the *Lower Way*, as 'tis called, along the Coast

INTRODUCTION.

Coast of *Jucatan*, if the Voyage be made between *May* and *September*, when there are no *North* Winds; and the *Upper Way*, taking a Sweep higher through the Gulf, if it be in *Winter*, to avoid the *Cross-Winds* from the Coasts.

By the
Galleons.

THE *Galleons*, after separating from the *Flota*, pass thro' the *Antilles* about the Island of *Guadelupe*, or enter to the South of them between *Granada* and *Trinidad*; then keeping at a good Distance from the Coast of *Tierra Firma* (whence the South Winds blow in Summer, and the North in Winter) they double *Cape De la Vela*, and coming before *Rio de la Hacha*, about twenty Leagues beyond the Cape, Notice is sent thither of their Arrival in the *West-Indies*; from whence Advice is dispatch'd over Land to *Cartagena*, *Panama*, and *Lima* in *Peru*, to hasten the King's Treasure: After this they pursue their Voyage to *Cartagena*. Here the *Galleons* having landed the Goods for the *Nuevo Reyno*, and stayed a Month, they proceed to *Puerto Belo*, where they land those for *Peru*, and take in the Treasure of the *South Sea*, staying about five or six Weeks till the great Fair held at this Place is over; after which they sail back to *Cartagena*, where they remain till they set out on their Return for *Old Spain*.

The Winds
and Cur-
rents in the
Way.

BOTH these Voyages are performed in less time in some Seas than in others; and in each Sea in different time, according as the Wind and Currents prove more or less favourable. From *Cadiz* to the *Canaries* the Sea is tossing and subject to various Winds, whence the *Spaniards* call it the *Gulf of Yeguas*, or *Kicking Mares*: But the Fleet having passed the *Canaries*, they find a Westerly Wind, which holds till they come to the *Torrid Zone*, where the Wind blows continually from the East, and is therefore call'd

The



INTRODUCTION.

7

The Trade Wind; the Current also sets Westward, so that having both Wind and Tide in their Favour, they have scarce any need to touch the Sails the whole Way. The Sea likewise is so smooth and pleasant that they call this *The Gulph of Dames*.

THE same Winds and Currents continue all the Remainder of the Way; but the Sailing is not so pleasant and certain beyond those Islands, on account of the Land-Breezes, or Cross-Winds, which sometimes obstruct the Navigation, and oblige Ships to vary their Course, as hath been already observed.

THE Course of the *Galleons* and *Flota* to the *Return of Indies* is more short, secure, and agreeable than that *the Fleets*. from thence: For they cannot get back the same Way they came, on account of the Winds and Currents, which are against them. The latter set strongly through the *Antilles* into the Gulf of *Mexico*, where running violently against the opposite Coast about *La Vera Cruz*, they are turned to the North, and taking a Sweep round the Coast of *New Spain* and *Florida*, pass out (between the Southern Point of *Florida* and the Island of *Cuba*) through the Gulf of *Florida* and Channel of *Bahama* into the Ocean; so that there is no other way of their returning to *Europe* but through this Gulf.

ACCORDINGLY they contrive to meet at the *Havana* for the conveniency of sailing home in a Body. *They meet at the Havana.* If they return the same Year they set out (which they aim to do, but cannot always perform) they repair to that Port about *September*; but if not till next Year, their Rendezvous is in *June*, that they may get to *Spain* before Winter, to avoid the Cross-Winds. The *Galleons*, which in this last Case winter at *Cartagena*, set out from thence in *May*, for *Cape San Antonio* in *Cuba*, from whence they

INTRODUCTION.

they proceed to the *Havana*. The Ships from *Honduras*, and other Parts without the *Gulf of Mexito*, take the same Rout. The *Flota* in like manner departs from *La Vera Cruz* (where it winter'd) while the North Winds last, which serve to bring them to the *Havana*: In this Passage they take a Compass towards the Coast, without the Verge of the *Trade Winds*, entering the *Gulf of Florida* by the Sound of *las Tortugas*.

BEING arrived at this Port they stay commonly for some Time; either waiting the one Fleet for the other, or else to take in Provisions, to trade, or to settle certain Matters, sending the *Flotilla* before to *Europe*.

Course
from
thence.

FROM the *Havana*, passing thro' the *Gulf of Florida* and the Channel of *Bahama*, they keep not far from the Coast till they get as high as *Carolina*, where they meet with Westerly Winds, and so shape their Way thro' the *Gulf of the North*, or of *Sagarzo*, as they call it, till they come to the *Azores*. In this Passage there are two Courses, one for Summer in 38 or 39 Degrees of Latitude, the other in Winter not exceeding the Latitude of 36 Degrees.

THEY stop at *Tercera*, one of the *Azores*, to take in Provisions, and thence sail to *Cadiz*, doubling *Cape St. Vincent* in the Way.

Gulph of
Florida
dangerous.

THE Passage through the *Gulf of Florida* is the worst Part of the whole Course; for the Current rushes with such Violence through it, and sets so strongly toward the Coast of *Florida*, which is very shallow and without any Harbour, that in case of high North-east Winds, to which it is subject, Ships run great danger of being cast away. Their best Course is to keep over to the *Bahama* Side.

INTRODUCTION.

9

Side. Being out of this Gulf and gotten into a higher Latitude they proceed in more Security.

IT must farther be observed, that as Ships cannot get back to *Europe* the Way they came from thence, neither can they come to the *West-Indies* the Way they return. The Stream sets so violently to the North out of the Channel of *Bahama*, that tho' the Wind is almost always favourable, there is no getting thro' it from the Ocean into the *Gulf of Mexico*; insomuch, that Ships bound to *Jamaica* from any Part of *America* (even from *Carolina* itself) are obliged, no less than those setting out from *Europe*, to the repair to the *Antilles*, in order to get to that Island.

THE Distance run, and Time spent by each Fleet in going and returning from the *West-Indies*, is as follows:

THE Tract from *Cadiz* to *La Vera Cruz*. From *Cadiz* to the *Canary Isles*, 250 Leagues, in eight or ten Days; to the *Antilles* or *Caribbee* Islands 800 Leagues, in 20 Days; to *Cape San Antonio* 500 Leagues, in 20 Days; thence to *La Vera Cruz* there are 250 Leagues by the *Lower Way*, and 280 by the *Upper Way*, which are sail'd in 10 or 12 Days: In all 180 or 1130 Leagues in 58 or 62 Days.

THE Return from *La Vera Cruz* to the *Havana* 300 Leagues in fifteen Days; to the *Azores* 1000 Leagues, in 25 or 30 Days; to *Cadiz* 300 Leagues in 15 Days, (tho' sometimes the Passage takes up 30 Days, occasioned by various Winds): In all 1600 Leagues in 55 or 60 Days.

THE Tract from *Cadiz* to *Cartagena* and *Puerto Bello*. From *Cadiz* to the *Canary Islands* and the *Antilles*, as before, 1050 Leagues in 28 or 30 Days; to *Cartagena* 280 Leagues, in 14

C

Days;

INTRODUCTION.

Days ; to *Puerto Bello* 90 Leagues, in 4 or 6 Days : in all 1420 Leagues in 46 or 50 Days.

FROM *Cartagena* or *Puerto Bello* back to *Cadiz* thus : To *Cape San Antonio* 290 Leagues, in 10 Days ; to the *Havana* 50 Leagues ; thence to *Cadiz* as before 1300 Leagues in 40 or 45 Days : In all 1640 Leagues in 53 or 58 Days.

Seat of War in the West-Indies, recommended.

As it will be necessary to consult some *Map* and *Plans* along with this Description, I would recommend to the Reader's Perusal *The Seat of War in the West-Indies*, which contains both. There are several other Prints of the same Nature, intended for Imitations of it : But they are not worth any thing ; being patch'd up with old exploded Maps and Plans, which (besides being too small) are unlike nothing so much as the Places they represents : Whereas those in *The Seat of War* are of a proper Size ; and, as well as the Map, seem to be drawn both with Care and Skill, of which the Remarks and Vouchers inserted therein are a Proof. And I must acknowledge that I have been in a great Measure beholden to those Plans and the Map ; from whence a juster Idea of the Situation of the Places may be gathered, than the Accounts of Geographers, Travellers, or Historians afford us.



Of

Of CARTAGENA.

SECT. I.

The Description of the City and its Harbour.

CARTAGENA, which the Spaniards pronounce *Cartabéna*, (the *g* before *e* and *i*, as also the *j* Consonant and *x* having the Force of an *b* with them) we commonly write *Cartagéna*. The Name was given it by *Rodrigo de Bastidas* (who discover'd it in 1502) on account of the Resemblance of the Harbour to that of *Cartagéna* in Spain.

THIS Harbour is formed by an Island call'd *The Har-Varu* at present, (and formerly *Carex* or *Caresha*, and first of all *Cadego*) and a Peninsula, which is join'd to the Continent by a very narrow sandy Isthmus, or Neck of Land, about 5 Miles and a half long. The Peninsula, which is called *Navé*, is near 4 Miles long; and the Coast of both runs South by West, and North by East. To the South of the latter lies the Island, which on the North East is separated from the Land by a very narrow Passage called *Passa a Cavallos*, or the *Horse Passage*; and from the North West Corner there shoots out a long Neck of Land, which advancing about 2 Miles into the Sea reaches within 3 Furlongs of the Peninsula of *Navé*. This makes the Mouth of the Harbour, which, from its Smallness, is call'd *Boca chica*, or *little Mouth*.

THIS Harbour is 4 Leagues long from North to South; and five Miles in Breadth from West to East, opposite to the Entrance: Afterwards it is

A DESCRIPTION

reduced to one Mile by the spreading of the Peninsula, and then enlarges to 3 by the narrowing of the Isthmus ; which, 2 Miles from thence, shooting out a long Tongue of Land, the Harbour is contracted to the Breadth of 5 Furlongs. Then it opens again for the Space of a Mile and half ; after which entering between certain little Islands, where the Passage is very narrow, it gradually contracts itself for another Mile, and then dwindles to a very narrow Gut, which continues for above 2 Miles through marshy Lands, though enlarging somewhat towards the End. This Marsh and Gut are named by some, *The Marsh and Lake of Canapôté*.

*Good and
Safe.*

THE Harbour called the *Laguna*, or Lake of *Cartagena*, is one of the best in the *West-Indies* ; some think in the whole World. It is very large, capable of containing several considerable Fleets, which may ride in different Parts of it ; though bulky Ships are obliged to cast Anchor at a great Distance from the City, where there is a very good Key : And 'tis here the *Galleons*, after their Return from *Puerto Bello*, lye to winter (whenever they stay) and take in their Cargoes for their Return to *Spain* ; on which account the Harbour is well fortified. There are a great many Islands in it chiefly towards the Coasts.

*The City,
its Situation.*

Cartagena is divided into the upper and lower. The upper, which is properly the City, stands on the Isthmus. It extends about 3 Quarters of a Mile along this Isthmus, which there runs North-East, and South-West, and is near half a Mile broad at the South-West End, where it makes an Elbow, running South-East for about half a Mile ; but immediately above and below the City it is not more than a few Paces over. The City takes up the whole

whole Breadth of the Isthmus, beginning at the Entrance of the narrow Gut; so that it is washed on the North-West Side by the Sea, and on the East by the narrow Gut, into which also the Sea flows from the Harbour.

BEYOND this Gut is the lower City, called *Xi-Hihimani*, *ximani*, or *Hibimani*, (it being thus written, because the *Spaniards* so pronounce it) and by contraction *Xemani*, an *Indian* Word signifying a *Suburbs*. It lies to the South-East of the upper City, and is not above half as big.

AFTER the Discovery of this Port, the *Spaniards* when often landed here and fought with the *Indians*, but made no Settlement, though some undertook to do it. At length, in 1527, *Don Pedro de Eredia* had Orders to build a City, and began it; but it was finish'd by *George Robledo* 8 Years after.

As to *Hibimani*, it is of much later Foundation, for we find no mention of it in the Account of Colonel *Beeston's* Voyage to *Cartagena* in 1671; and with this agrees the older Accounts of this Place, which observe, that from the City you crossed to the Marsh of *Canapôté*, over a Bridge and sort of Causey 250 Paces long, with 2 Arches for the Tyde to go in and out to the Marsh.

Cartagena is a beautiful City, and next to *Mexico*, the finest on all the East Side of *America*. It forms 5 large Streets, each near half a Mile in Length, with stately Houses of Stone, and one larger and longer than the rest, which crosses the City, making a spacious Square in the Middle. There are 5 Churches besides the Cathedral, which appears above all the other Buildings, and is very magnificent without as well as rich within, and 11 Religious-Houses, Monasteries and Nunneries, (those of the *Dominicans* and *Franciscans* being noble Struc-

A DESCRIPTION

reduced to one Mile by the spreading of the Peninsula, and then enlarges to 3 by the narrowing of the Isthmus ; which, 2 Miles from thence, shooting out a long Tongue of Land, the Harbour is contracted to the Breadth of 5 Furlongs. Then it opens again for the Space of a Mile and half ; after which entering between certain little Islands, where the Passage is very narrow, it gradually contracts itself for another Mile, and then dwindles to a very narrow Gut, which continues for above 2 Miles through marshy Lands, though enlarging somewhat towards the End. This Marsh and Gut are named by some, *The Marsh and Lake of Canapôté.*

*Good and
Safe.*

THE Harbour called the *Laguna*, or Lake of *Cartagéna*, is one of the best in the *West-Indies* ; some think in the whole World. It is very large, capable of containing several considerable Fleets, which may ride in different Parts of it ; though bulky Ships are obliged to cast Anchor at a great Distance from the City, where there is a very good Key : And 'tis here the *Galleons*, after their Return from *Puerto Bello*, lye to winter (whenever they stay) and take in their Cargoes for their Return to *Spain* ; on which account the Harbour is well fortified. There are a great many Islands in it chiefly towards the Coasts.

*The City,
its Situation.*

Cartagéna is divided into the upper and lower. The upper, which is properly the City, stands on the Isthmus. It extends about 3 Quarters of a Mile along this Isthmus, which there runs North-East, and South-West, and is near half a Mile broad at the South-West End, where it makes an Elbow, running South-East for about half a Mile ; but immediately above and below the City it is not more than a few Paces over. The City takes up the whole

whole Breadth of the Isthmus, beginning at the Entrance of the narrow Gut; so that it is washed on the North-West Side by the Sea, and on the East by the narrow Gut, into which also the Sea flows from the Harbour.

BEYOND this Gut is the lower City, called *Xi-Hihimani*, *ximani*, or *Hibimani*, (it being thus written, because the *Spaniards* so pronounce it) and by contraction *Xemani*, an *Indian* Word signifying a *Suburbs*. It lies to the South-East of the upper City, and is not above half as big.

AFTER the Discovery of this Port, the *Spaniards* when often landed here and fought with the *Indians*, founded but made no Settlement, though some undertook to do it. At length, in 1527, *Don Pedro de Eredia* had Orders to build a City, and began it; but it was finish'd by *George Robledo* 8 Years after.

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A DESCRIPTION

Structures) besides a handsome Town-house and Custom-house: In short, the Buildings in general are very handsome. It is exceeding populous for a *Spanish City in America*, containing above 4000 *Spanish* Inhabitants, and near 20,000 Mulattos and Negroes, who are all at their Ease, and would be thought very rich in any other Place.

*Strength
and Forts.*

It is strong by Nature as well as Art. The Shore on which 'tis situated is very rough, nor can Ships of any great Bulk approach it from the Sea, by reason of the Rocks and Shallowness of the Coast. The Harbour is also naturally strong. The Mouth is defended by a Fort, called after it *Boca chica*, also *St. Luis*. It stands on the Left Hand in the middle and narrowest Part of the Entrance; facing which, just within, there is an Island, whereon is erected a Fort named *San Joseph*. There are also two others, called *San Felipé*, and *San Jago*, on the Shore about three Quarters of a Mile before you come to the Port. On the Tongue of Land above-mentioned, within three Miles of the City, there is another strong Fort, called *El Fuerte de Santa Cruz* and *Castillo Grandé*, which is almost inaccessible; for only a few Boats can put ashore at a Time; and there is no getting at it by Land, on account of the Marshes that surround it, and a large Ditch filled by the Sea. Opposite to this Fort, on a Point of Land which shoots out from the Continent, is another, called *Manzanillo*: Or, *The Little Apple*; meaning that of the poisonous Kind. There is yet a Seventh, named *Pastillo* on the same side, defending the narrow Passage to *Hibimani*.

*Has been
often taken.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the Strength of the Place, it has been taken two or three Times, as shall be shewn presently. 'Tis true, the *Spaniards*, grown wiser since the last Peace, have improved its Fortifica-

tifications and enlarged its Garrisons ; so that (as a certain Author observes) if a *French* Squadron was to come this Way again they would find they could not besiege *Cartagena* with such Force as before, nor perhaps with twice that Number. I shall not pretend to say what the *French* could do ; but I am of Opinion that the *English*, under such a Commander as Admiral *Vernon*, would take it with fewer Troops, and in less Time than *de Pointis* did.

It is reckoned at present the second Place for *First wall- Strength* in the *West-Indies*, next to the *Havana*, ^{ed Town} and was all along pretty strong ; being the first that ^{in Ameri- ca.} was walled by the *Spaniards* in *America*. When Sir *Francis Drake* took it, the whole was fortified with Sconces ; and not far off was a walled Monastery of *Franciscans*, besides two Forts. Yet *Gage* observes that in his Time, tho' reasonably well fortified, it was not so strong as *Puerto Bello*.

BOTH the City, and *Hibimani* are pretty regularly *Well for- fortified* at present. The latter is, as it were, a Fort- tress with seven Bastions ; and is separated from the other by the narrow Gut above-mentioned, which serves for a Ditch, and is covered with a Draw-bridge. About a Quarter of a Mile to the East North-East of *Hibimani* is the Fort *de San Lazaro*, or as 'tis now called *San Felipe de Baraxas* ; to which you pass also by a Draw-bridge. This Fort commands both the Towns, and is itself commanded by a high Mountain of very difficult Access. Near a Mile South by East from the Fort on a Hill stands the Monastery of *Madre de Popa*, because its Church on one Side resembles the Poop of a Ship ; 'tis called also *Nuestra Sennora de la Candelaria*, that is, *Our Lady of the Candlestick* ; and is likewise fortified.

A DESCRIPTION

Capital of the Province. 'Tis the Chief City of the Province and Government of the same Name (on the Coast of *Tierra Firma*, formerly called *Castillo del Oro*) extending, from *Rio Grande*, or *Madalena*, to the Gulf of *Darien*, eighty Leagues, and as many from the Coast to the *Nueva Reyno de Granada*.

Government. Gage says, it is not governed by a Court of Justice and Chancery as *Santa Fe* is, but only by one Governor who resides with the King's Officers: The Royal Treasury is here also.

Bishoprick. It is a Bishop's See, under the Archbishop of *Santa Fe de Bogota*, in the *Nuevo Reyno*. Hither the *Galleons* repair from *Spain*, to receive the King's Revenue, which comes from the same Country by the *Rio Grandé*, or *Madalena*; and here a great Trade is driven as well by the *Galleons*, as the Merchant-Ships under their Convoy, after their Return from *Puerto Bello*.

Wealth. Pearls. *Cartagena* is very rich, by reason of its Trade in Pearls, Emeralds, and other precious Stones. From *Margarita* come all the Pearls, which are sent hither to be refined and bored, where there is a whole Street taken up with the Shops of Pearl-Dressers. In *July* there is commonly a Ship or two at the Island to carry the King's Revenue and the Merchants Pearls hither, being well manned for fear of the *English* and *Dutch*. Likewise twelve small Vessels, called *The Pearl Fleet*, with a Man of War to defend them, are sent every Year from *Cartagena* to *Rancherias*, (a few Leagues to the North East of *Rio de la Hacha*) where there is a rich Pearl-Bank and Fishery.

Emeralds. EMERALDS come from the Province of *Santa Marta* and the *Nuevo Reyno*. This Stone was in great Esteem before *America* produced such great Numbers of them. A *Spaniard* desiring to know the

the Price of a couple of Emeralds shewed them to an *Italian Jeweller*, who valued one at a 100, the other at 300 Ducats: But soon after, seeing a Chest full of them, sayed, they were scarce worth a Ducat a-piece. The *Indians* wear them at their Noses, as believing them good against the Falling-Sickness. They grow in Veins along the hard Rocks, not unlike Chrystal, and in Time obtain a glittering Greenness.

Most of the Indico, Cochineal and Sugar, made Other Com-
modities. in the Country of *Guatimála*, is brought here yearly in small Frigats; the *Spaniards* thinking it safer to send these Goods this Way through the Lake of *Granáda*, in *Nicarágua*, and so to *Cartagena* to be shipped on Board the *Galleons*, than by the Ships of *Hondúras*, which have been often taken by the *Dutch*, as might these Frigats by the *English*, if the *Spaniards* had not dispossessed them of the Island of *Providence*, which they came too near in their Course.

Cartagena suffered much in its Trade for a long Sloop Trade Course of Years; not only by the *Bucaniers* (made up of the People of several Countries, who infested the Ports of the North Sea, and took the Ships tradn gthither) but also by the *English* of *Jamaica*, and *Dutch* of *Curasao* and *Surinám*, who came upon this Coast and carried on a clandestine Trade with the Inhabitants. This was called the *Sloop Trade*, as having been managed by Sloops lying off and on upon the Coast to receive Canows, which came off from Land with Goods to them in the Night.

As the *Dutch* and *English* found their Gain very great in this Illicit Trade, so the Smugglers or *Spanish* Merchants had a double Gain; for they not only avoided paying the Custom to the King
D of

A DESCRIPTION

of *Spain*, which in that Country is very considerable; but they bought them much cheaper of the Sloops than they could from the *Galleons* at *Puerto Bello*, or the Merchants of *Cartagena*, and yet the Sloop Merchants sold them at a very good Price too.

Very pre-
judicial to
its Com-
merce.

THIS sort of Commerce was very pernicious, both to the King's Revenue and the fair Trader: But no remedy being applied from *Spain*, (where it was well known) the Governor of *Cartagena* found himself unable to support it; for the *Dutch* carried it on with Ships from 20 to 30, and 36 Guns; and the *English* in large Sloops and Brigantines from 8 to 10, and 16 Guns, and sometimes with Ships of Force too; so that they protected the Canows against the *Spanish* Sloops when they put off to intercept them. Indeed if they could catch the Canows coming back with Goods, they made a Prize of them; but this seldom happened, and was hazadous too: For the Smugglers, apprized of all by their Scouts on Shore, opposed the Officers, who often came by the worst. By this means Smuggling was carried on barefaced in Sight of the Town, and came to such a Height at last as greatly impaired the Trade of the *Galleons*, and lessened the Consumption of Goods brought by them, especially for the Provinces of *Cartagena*, *Santa Marta*, *Popayan*, *Granâda* and *Venezuela*, which were all supplied this Way with the *European* Goods they wanted.

At Length
suppressed.

AT length, the Government of *Spain* resolving to put an End to this Practice, ordered three stout Men of War from *Europe* on this Service to winter at *Cartagena*; where they were to be joined by two or three smaller Men of War from the *Havana*, in order to ply off and on the Coast:
and

and these are the Ships called *Guarda de las Costas*, or *Guardships for the Coasts*.

THEY had not been long on this Employment before they fell in with five *Dutch* Traders, all Ships of Force, whom they vigorously attacked. The *Dutch* defended themselves desperately; and one of them being over-powered by two *Spanish* Men of War, rather than strike, sunk by their Side. The rest were taken, whose Cargoes were valued at 100,000 Pistoles; and to complete the Tragedy, sixteen *Spanish* Merchants, who were found on board them, were carried to *Cartagena* and hanged without Mercy.

THE Country about *Cartagena*, and even the Isthmus (except about the Spot where it stands) is all marshy, which at some Seasons renders the Air unwholesome, and breeds Diseases. The Climate also is rainy and moist; but it is not so unhealthy here as the Coast of *Puerto Bello*, being neither so hot nor wet; and for the greater Part of Year, the Place is healthy enough. However, the Calenture seizes all but the *Indians*, who stir abroad after Twilight, in the Evening Air, called *la Serena*: so that it affects those who are upon Watch.

THE Country about is very mean and poor, Adjacent mountainous, and full of high Trees, the Soil Country. sandy, coarse, and quite uncultivated, nor so capable of Improvement as other Parts. It produces little of either Corn or Gold: but the *Spaniards* get some of the latter by Trading with the more peaceable *Indian* Nations, who dwell farther from it, and sometimes come to traffic with their Frontier Towns, which the *Spaniards* are obliged to fortify to defend them from the Natives. Some Productions of the Mountains afford much Rosin and Aromatic Gums,

A DESCRIPTION

Gums, *Sanguis Draconis*, a fragrant Balm of great Virtue, and other Liquors distilling from Trees.

The Indian
Inhabi-
tants.

THE Natives of these Parts are more fierce and untractable than any where else. They would never enter into Treaty with the *Spaniards*, or trade with them, but on all Occasions sought to destroy them, shooting poisoned Arrows, whose Wounds no Art could cure; and such sure Marks-men, that they seldomer missed a Man with their Bows, than the *Spaniards* did with their Muskets: However, they are at last destroy'd, or retired farther within Land. But the *Spaniards* made no great Gain of the Conquest, because the Country requires great Numbers of People to cultivate it, and more to defend it: So that it would be an easy Prey to any who would invade it, especially if they sought the Assistance of the ancient Inhabitants, who would be glad to help in driving at the *Spaniards*.

THE Description of *Cartagena*, as it was in 1671, when Col. *Beeston* went thither to adjust the Peace made the Year before in *Spain*, is so curious and exact for the Time, that I presume the Reader will not be displeased if we subjoin it, out of the Relation of his Voyage, to what has been already sayed on this Subject.

Description
of Carta-
gena, as it
was in
1671.

THE City of *Cartagena* lies on a Bay by the Sea-side, and is built on a Sand, but to Land ward it is very Boggy. It is in Length about three Quarters of a Mile, and not full half a Mile in Breadth. It is walled all round with a thick Stone Wall, about twenty-four Foot in Height, with Bastions, built with Orillons in some Parts, in others they are plain, but it has neither Grafts nor Ramparts. 126 Guns, mostly of Brass and Copper, lie upon the Parapets, looking over the Tops of the Walls, with-

without either Battlements, or common Baskets to blind them.

IN the Wall are three Gates, that of *San Domingo* to the South; that of *Santa Catalina* to the North-East; and one to the East, which leads to the Harbour and the Country. [This shews that *Hibimani*, or the Lower City, was not then built.]

HOWEVER, this City is not strong, for there *Not strong,* is neither Castle, nor any considerable Place of Strength in it, moreover, the North-West Winds have made three great Breaches in the Wall towards the Sea, which may be entered with Ease.

THE People likewise are not many, besides *Nor populous,* Churchmen, and for the most part are *Creolians*, who are half *Spaniard*, half *Indian*. There are also many *Negroes* and *Mulattos* among them.

FOR Fire-Arms, their Soldiers are armed only with Match-locks, in the Use of which they are likewise very unexpert.

THE City in general is well built with Stone, *But well* and covered with Tile. The Streets are narrow, *built.* and the Houses for the most Part contiguous, and generally four or five Stories high; with Balconies of Wood, and great Wooden Lattices, as they have in *Spain*. Here are many beautiful Churches, and other public Structures. One of their greatest Wants is Fresh-Water, having none but what falls from the Clouds; for the Reception whereof they have large Cisterns in most Houses, and likewise under the Bastions in the Walls, where they keep and husband it till a new Supply comes. [*Herrera* in *Purchas* says, that digging two Fathom, (perhaps it should be two Foot) in the Sand whereon the Town is built, they find fresh Water.]

THE Town appears very beautiful at a Distance; *Beautiful* for there are many Cocoa-Nut Trees, which re-*Appear-*
semble *ance.*

A DESCRIPTION

seem Palms, growing promiscuously in several Parts thereof, and over-topping the Houses, are a delightful Ornament to it.

Santa Magdalena.

ON the East-side of it, about a Mile distant, upon an Eminence stands a Castle, called *Santa Magdalena*, [This I take to be what is now called *de la Popa*] provided with many Brasses, Copper, and Iron Guns, which they look upon as a Place of great Strength, and able to do much in Defence of the City. Thus far the Relation.

Latitude and Longitude of Cartagena by Observation.

As to the Astronomical Situation of *Cartagena*: By the Observation of *Pere Feuillée* in 1705, verified by those of *Don Juan de Herrera* in 1722, 1723, and 1724, it is in Longitude West from *Paris*, 77° , 46 m. 15 s. and consequently from *London* 75° , 21 m. 15 s. The Latitude was observed by *Feuillée* the same Year, 10° , 30 m. 35 s. but from the middle Difference of the several Observations made by *Herrera* in 1709, and 1719, it results 10° , 26 m. 35 s. or four Minutes less. And this appears to be most exact, according to *Feuillée's* own Observation at *Boca chica*, whose Latitude he found to be 10° , 20 m. 24 s. whence the Difference of Latitude between it and the Town will be ten Minutes, or Geographical Miles, (by his Observations) which must be too much, since the Distance is not above seven common Miles and a half.

By Mr. Popple's and Moll's Maps.

By Mr. *Popple's* and *Moll's* Map, the Latitude of *Cartagena* is 10° 34 m. the Longitude 76° , 35 m. or one Degree fourteen Minutes more than it should be; which shews great Neglect, or want of Skill in the Authors.

SECT.

S E C T. II.

An Account of the taking of Cartagena in 1585,
by Sir FRANCIS DRAKE.

THE Dutch having offered to submit the Confederate Provinces of *Holland* to Queen Elizabeth, our most glorious Female Monarch, took the same into Consideration; and reflecting on the Troubles *Spain* had wrought her by Rebellions in *England* and *Ireland*, ever since the beginning of her Reign; the mortal Hatred the *Spaniards* bore to her Nation and Religion; the Grudge the King had to her own Person; and how the Ships and Effects of her Subjects had been lately seized in *Spain*; but excited more by the ambitious Designs of *Philip II.* she at length, by Advice of her Council, resolved to take the *Hollanders* into her Protection, and assist them with Forces according to the Tenor of ancient Treaties; but would not accept of the Dominion of their Territories, having had a nobler Design in View; namely, to restore them to their ancient Liberty, and secure her own Kingdoms, by hindering *Spain* from oppressing her Neighbours. Accordingly, she sent to their Aid 6000 Men; and as she apprehended this Step would be deemed a sort of Declaration of War against *Spain*, to keep the Evil from her own Door, she set forth a Fleet in order to find the *Spaniards* Work abroad.

Occasion of
the Expedition.

THIS Fleet consisted of 25 Sail of Ships and Pinnaces, on board which were 2300 Soldiers and Seamen, with their Officers, under the Command of Sir Francis Drake, who acted both as Admiral and General. The Land Officers under him were

Number of
Ships and
Men.

Christo-

A DESCRIPTION

Christopher Carlisle, Lieutenant General, *Anthony Powell*, Serjeant Major, *Matthew Morgan* and *John Samson*, Corporals of the Field. The Captains were, *Anthony Plat*, *Edward Winter*, *John Goring*, *Robert Pen*, *George Barton*, *John Merchant*, *William Gevil*, *Walter Biggs*, *John Haman*, and *Richard Stanton*. The Ships and Sea Captains were, *Martin Frobisher*, Vice-Admiral in the *Primrose*; *Francis Knolles*, Rear-Admiral in the *Galleon Leicester*; *Thomas Vennor* in the *Elizabeth Bonadventure*, under the General; the Aid, *Edward Winter*; the *Tyger*, *Christopher Carlisle*; the *Sea Dragon*, *Henry White*; the *Thomas*, *Thomas Drake*; the *Minion*, *Thomas Seely*; the *Bark Talbot*, Capt. *Cayley*; the *Bark Bond*, *Robert Crosse*; the *Bark Bonner*, *George Fortescue*; the *Hope*, *Edward Carelesse*; the *White Lion*, *James Erizo*; the *Francis*, *Thomas Moon*; the *Vantage*, *John Rivers*; the *Drake*, *John Vaughan*; the *George*, *John Varney*; the *Benjamin*, *John Martin*; the *Scout*, *Richard Gilman*; the *Duck*, *Richard Hawkins*; the *Swallow*, Capt. *Bitfield*.

San Jago
burned.

Treachery
and Cruelty
of the Spaniards.

THE 12th of September the Fleet set sail from *Plymouth*, for *Spain*; where making some Spoil about *Vigo*, they passed on to the Island of *Cape Verde*. Here they took and burnt *San Jago* (or *Playa*) the chief Town belonging to an Island of the same Name. Neither the Governor, the Bishop, nor any of the People appeared in Behalf of the Town, or their Effects: which the *English* judged to proceed from the Guilt of their Treachery and Cruelty towards Capt. *William Hawkins* of *Plymouth*, with whom above five Years before they broke their Faith, and murdered many of his Men. These Barbarians had Reason also to fear on account of their Savage Cruelty to

to one of the Boys belonging to the present Fleet, whom they had taken straggling : for after cutting off his Head, they plucked out his Heart, and in a brutish Manner scattered the rest of his Limbs about the Place. In revenge of which villainous Action, the *English* burnt all the Houses they found in the Country, as well as the Town ; and left Writings in several Places, particularly the Hospital (which was spared from the Fire) to express their Indignation and Resentment of so horrid a Piece of Cruelty. But *Spaniards* were always *Spaniards*.

FROM hence they proceeded directly for the *West-Indies* ; but had not been long at Sea before many of their Men dy'd ; altho' they lost not one till seven or eight Days after they had left *San Jago*, to the Malignity of whose Air this Misfortune was attributed. Their Disease was a violent Calenture, or continual Burning-Fever, certain Spots like those of the Plague appearing upon some of the Dead : The few who recovered were very much impaired in their Strength and Memory for a long Time after. Mean while they held on their Course, and passing by the Islands of *Dominica* and *St. Christopher* (where they kept their *Christmas*) came to *Hispaniola*. Here landing on *New-Year's-Day*, they took and burnt Part of *San Domingo*, the chief City of that Island, before the *Spaniards*, according to their usual Stiffness, would pay the Ransom demanded ; but they were glad to lay down 25,000 Ducats to save the Remainder, after the *English* had committed much Spoil.

The Calenture rages in the Fleet.

Take and burn San Domingo in Hispaniola.

FROM *San Domingo* they crossed over to the Continent of *South-America*, and at length came within Sight of *Cartagena*, built so near the Sea, that they approached it within Musket-shot.

E

About

Enter the Harbour of Cartagena About four in the Afternoon they entered the Mouth of the Harbour, lying about three [rather seven] Miles to the South West [South by West] of the Town, without the least Resistance. Having given Orders to the Vice-Admiral, and other Captains in Boats and Pinnaces, to attack the little Fort at the Entrance of the Haven, the General in the Evening landed with his Troops, not far from the Mouth of the Harbour, [the Relation in *Purchas* says, five Miles from the Town] and marched silently along the Shore, till they came within two Miles of the City, where they were met by about an hundred Horsemen, who upon the first Volley of the *English* Shot, retreated back to the Town. At the same Instant they heard some Cannons go off, which were the Signal to give Notice that the Vice-Admiral had attempted the Fort: But this proved to little Purpose, for it was very strong tho' small, and the narrow Entrance of the Haven was secured by a Chain drawn across it; * only it gave an Alarm to the other Side of the Haven, a Mile and a half from the Place where they were.

They approach the City.

THE *English* Troops being advanced now within half a Mile of the City, the Passage grew narrow, being not above fifty Paces broad. On one Side was the Sea, on the other the Haven. This Place was fortified quite across with a Stone Wall, and Ditch behind, with Flankings all along; a Way only being left for a Horse or Carriage

* The Haven here is to be distinguished from the Harbour, though these Terms are commonly used synonymously: And the Fort must have stood, either where that of *Santa Cruz* now stands, or at a narrow Part of the Harbour nearer the City, where the Fort of *Pastillillo* is situate.

riage to pass through; which yet was barricaded with Barrels filled with Earth. This Part was defended by six great Guns, which were discharged on the Front of the *English* at their Approach. There were likewise brought near the Shore two large Gallies, mounted with eleven Pieces of Cannon each, which played across the narrow Isthmus, besides three or four hundred small Shot; and on Land were posted three hundred Muskets and Pikes more, for guarding this Pass.

As the *English* still marched on, the *Spaniards*, They force their Way and enter the Place. who were ready to receive them, were very liberal both of their great and small Shot: But Lieutenant General *Carlisle*, taking Advantage of the Darkness of the Morning before Sun-rise, advanced according to express Orders he had received the Night before, along the Sea-side, where the Water being somewhat fallen, most of their Shot was in vain. As the *English* were commanded not to shoot till they came to the Wall, they advanced up to the Barricado of *Wine Buts* without firing a Musket: But as soon as they arrived there, they instantly fell to throwing down the Barrels; and having given the Enemy one Volley with their Pieces, attacked them in the very Teeth with their Swords and Pikes. So that the *Spaniards* were obliged to abandon the Pass to the *English*, who followed them hot-foot into the Town, without giving them any breathing-time, till they got to the Market-place; though the *Dons* made a stand now and then to prevent it: But finding all their Endeavours ineffectual, they were forced at length to leave the Place, flying into the Country to their Wives and Families, whom they had sent away before.

The Resistance made by the Spaniards.

At the end of every Street they had raised handsome Barricadoes of Earth, intrenched about, in entering which, some Resistance was made; but those who defended them were soon dispersed, very few being either killed or wounded. They had likewise posted many *Indians* with Bows in Places of Advantage, their Arrows being infected with such a virulent Poison, that if they did but break the Skin, the Wound was usually mortal. With these some of our Men were slain. They had likewise driven into the Ground, along the Road, a great Number of Iron Spikes, a Foot and half in Length, which were poisoned too: But the *English*, marching by the Sea-side, happily escaped the greater Part of them; so that few only were destroyed by these villainous Contrivances, so contrary to the Law of Arms. Their having been so well prepared was owing to the Notice they had received, twenty Days before from *San Domingo*, of the coming of the *English* into those Seas; by which means also the Inhabitants had Time to carry away all their Treasure and valuable Effects.

The English in Possession six Weeks.

In this Action, the *English* took Prisoner *Don Alonzo Bravo*, who commanded at the Barricado; and having utterly defeated their Enemies, continued in the Place six Weeks. During this Time the Calenture returned among them, which the *Spaniards* impute to the Evening Air, called *La Serena*, affirming that it mortally infects all who are then abroad, except the *Native-Indians* of the Country; and the *English* caught it by being on the Watch. The Inconvenience of this Sickness hindered them from prosecuting their Design of going to *Nombre de dios*, and so over-land to *Panamá*, in hopes of gaining sufficient Treasure to recompense their tedious Travels.

The Calenture returns.

DURING

DURING their Stay here (as before at *San Civilites Domingo*) several Civilities passed between them ^{that passed between them and} and the Inhabitants of the Town, as Feasting, Visiting, and the like. Among the rest, the Governor of *Cartagena*, with the Bishop, and several ^{the Inhabitants.} other Gentlemen came to see the General.

BESIDES the Calenture, only one cross Accident ^{Cross Accident.} happened to them while they were at this Place. The Centinel, posted on the Church Steeple, having one Day discovered two small Barks at Sea, several Officers and Sailors got on board two little Pinnaces, in hopes to seize them before they came nigh the Shore, or had notice from Land of their being in the Town: But notwithstanding all their Diligence, those in the Barks had a Sign made to them; so that on the Approach of the Pinnaces, they ran ashore and hid themselves in the Bushes among the *Spaniards*, who had given them Notice of their Danger. The *English*, seeing the Barks empty, rashly went on Board, and standing openly on the Deck were suddenly shot at by the *Spaniards* from the Hedges: whereby Capt. *Varney* was slain out-right, and Capt. *Moon* died a few Days after, four or five more being hurt. Besides, not having Men enough to fight on Shore, and most of them being Sailors without Arms, (for they expected to take the Barks with their Cannon,) they were forced to return without effecting any thing; tho' they might easily have carried off the Barks had they reached them before they came nigh the Shore.

THE *Spaniards*, according to their Custom of *The City* holding out beyond Reason, and then servilely ^{ransomed after part had been burned.} submitting to whatever Terms you think fit to impose, could not be brought to agree about ransoming the Town, till the *English*, to bring them
to

A DESCRIPTION

to a Compliance, burnt some Part of it, which had the desired Effect ; for they immediately concluded to pay 110,000 Ducats (five Shillings and Sixpence each) to spare the rest. So that tho' the Town was not half so big as that of *San Domingo*, yet it payed a much greater Ransom, as being of far more Importance, on account of its excellent Harbour and Situation for Trade with *Nombre de Dios*, and other Ports, as well as of its being inhabited by wealthier Merchants : Whereas the other was filled chiefly with Lawyers and Gentlemen ; the supreme Courts of Law, as well for the Continent as the Islands, being established there.

The Spaniards outwitted.

THE Sum agreed on being payed, the *English* left the Town and withdrew towards the *Priory*, or *Abbey*, which was walled with Stone, and stood a quarter of a Mile below, near the Harbour. Here they put in Soldiers to keep Possession, telling the *Spaniards*, that *this was yet their own, and not comprehended in the Composition lately made*. The cautious *Dons* finding themselves to be fairly outwitted, offered to ransom the same, together with the *Block-house*. A thousand Pound being demanded for each, they agreed to pay that Sum for the *Abbey* ; but pleading they were not able to give so much for the *Block-house* (doubtless to try the *English*) it was undermined and blown up with Gunpowder. *Gage* tells us, the *Spaniards* in his Time affirmed, that *Drake*, surprizing the Town, burnt most of Part of it ; and, besides inestimable Sums of Money, carried away 230 Pieces of Ordnance, which he says was more than it had in his Time : But by the account of our Author, there were only 240 taken in all, out of the several Places that were plundered in this Expedition, as we shall see hereafter.

A Fort blown up.

MEAN

of CARTAGENA.

31

MEAN while the whole Fleet falling down to the Mouth of the Harbour, stopped at an Island there, which was very pleasant, abounding with Orange-Trees, and several other choice Fruits, set in such exact Order for Walks, that the whole Island, being about three Miles round, is all made into Gardens and Orchards. This cannot be the Island mentioned in the Description, with Fort *San Josefo* on it at present.

HAVING taken in Water at a great Well in this Island, they put to Sea *March* the 31st, 1586. *They return Home.* Two Days after a great Ship taken at *San Domingo*, loaden with Cannon, Hides, and other Goods, sprung a Lake, which obliged them to return to *Cartagena*, where they stayed eight or ten Days longer to unload her, and dispose of her Men and Cargo in another Ship. After this, putting once more to Sea, they directed their Course to *Cape St. Antony*, the most western Point of *Cuba*, where they arrived *April* the 27th: And here we will leave them till we come to speak of *San Agustin*.

Cartagena has revenged herself since those Days on the *English*, not only in destroying the Sloop *Cartagena* *revenged* *Trade*, as above-mentioned, but before that, by *after-* taking from them with her Forces the Island of *Providence*, called by the *Spaniards*, *Santa Catalina*. This Island lies about thirty-six Leagues East from the Coast of *Honduras*; and according to *Dampier* 70, [North, North-West] of *Puerto Bello*, in the Latitude of 13°, 15 m. so that it stands very conveniently for annoying the *Spaniards* in those Parts: On which Occasion, *Gage* says, that, tho' but little, it might have been of greater Advantage to us than any other of our *American* Plantations, and hopes we shall recover it again. Indeed it was retaken twice since his Time by.

A DESCRIPTION

by the *Bucaniers*, who found it of great Importance for carrying on their Enterprizes: But the *Spaniards* would not leave them in Possession of a Place, from whence they could so easily invade their Coasts at any Time, and intercept the *Gal- leons* in their Way between *Puerto Bello* and *Cartagena*.

S E C T. III.

The taking of Cartagena by six French Privateers, and afterwards by M. DE POIN- TIS in 1697.

Cartagena
taken by six
French
Privateers
conducted
by a Spa-
niard.

NOT long after the taking of *Cartagena* by Sir *Francis Drake*, the City received a more fatal Blow, for it was scarce repaired again, when five *French Privateers* burnt it to Ashes. This Misfortune was occasioned by a *Spanish* Seaman; who being whipp'd by command of the Governor, in revenge went to *France*, and conducted those Ships hither, which, getting in secretly by Night, surprized the Place. The *Spaniard* still burning with Revenge, hastened to the Governor's House; whom finding asleep he awaked, and after reproaching him for the whipping, killed him with his own Hand. The Booty carried off this Time amounted to above 150,000 Ducats. This was more indeed than Sir *Francis* got; but it was a Trifle in comparison of the vast Sums brought from thence by *M. de Pointis*, and the *French Bucaniers* that went thither with him under *M. du Casse*; whose Expedition I shall next relate, partly out of his own Account, and partly out of others, particularly that of *Pere le Pers*, in his History of the Island of *San Domingo*, published by *Pere Charlevoix*.

THIS

THIS Expedition had been forming three or four Years by the *Sieur de Pointis*, Captain of a Man of a War, and Commissary General of the Artillery of the Marine. He was a Person of great Experience, Courage and Resolution, capable of executing, as well as forming, a great Design. He is charged, however, with being too haughty, and discovering on this Occasion a Disposition of Covetousness, which never appeared in him before. The Ships and Men were furnished by the King, but the Expence of the Expedition was to be defrayed by Adventurers, who were to share in the Profits arising from it. On proposing the Project to the Public, Subscriptions poured in faster than they could be received: But the Peace concluded with *Savoy* giving the Expectations of a general one, they slackened on a sudden; and many would fain have withdrawn their Money, though the King had promised to reimburse them in case of a Peace. However, *de Pointis* resolved to proceed on the Sum already advanced, though far short of what he had proposed.

HIS first Care was to escape the *English* Fleet, He escapes the English Fleet at setting out. layed to consist of forty Men of War, which were sent to cruize before *Brest*, in order to prevent his Passage. Notice having been sent to him that they were discry'd off *Ushant*, he immediately left the Port, and steering to the Coast of *Spain*, as the best Way to avoid the Enemy, doubled *Cape Orlegal*, and in fifty-five Days arrived at *Cape Francois*, in the Island of *San Domingo*, or *Hispaniola*. Here being disappointed of a great Part of the Ships and Men promised him, he found himself reduced to half the Force he proposed at the Beginning, which was five-thousand Men, exclusive of Seamen. Leaving the *Cape* the 6th of *March*, he

F

came

A DESCRIPTION

came to *Exter*, the usual Residence of M. du *Casse*, Governor of the *French* Colony in *San Domingo*, who had Orders to join him with such Forces as could be spared.

Forces of
the Bucan-
niers.

THE Forces employed in this Enterprize were first 650 *Bucaniers*, or *Free-booters*, in seven Frigats, from eight to twenty-four Guns: *La Serpente*, commanded by the brave *Godefroi*, taken by the *Spaniards* four Years before; *Le Cerf Volant*, Capt. *Pierre*; *La Gracieuse*, *Blou*; *Le Pembroc*, *Galet*; *La Mutine*, *Pays*; *Le Jersey*, *Macary*; *Le Anglois*, *Cotui*; and a Brigantine, *Sales*. These were the Succours from *San Domingo*; which, with 110 Inhabitants, and 170 Soldiers of the Coast, besides 110 Negroes dispersed aboard the rest of the Fleet, amounted to upwards of 1200; though some reckon 1500 and 1720.

The King's
Ships and
Men.

THE Squadron consisted of seven large Ships of War: *Le Sceptre*, of 84 Guns, and 650 Men, the *Sieur Guillotin*, Captain, under M. de *Pointis*; *le Saint Louis*, 64 Guns, and 450 Men, de *Levi*, Vice-Admiral; *le Fort*, 70 Guns, and 450 Men, the *Viscount de Coetlogon*, Rear-Admiral; *le Vermandois*, *l'Apollon*, *le Furieux* and the *St. Michel* of 60 Guns, and 350 Men each, commanded by *Dubuisson*, *Gombaut*, *la Motte Michel*, and the *Chevalier de Marolles*. After these followed *le Christ*, with 44 Guns, and 220 Men, the *Chevalier de la Motte d'Herant*, Captain; *la Mutine*, 34 Guns, and 200 Men, *Massiat*, Captain; *L'Avenant*, 30 Guns, and 200 Men, the *Chevalier de Francine*, Captain; *le Marin*, 28 Guns, and 180 Men, *S. Vandrille*, Captain; *le Eclatante*, a Bomb-Vessel, 60 Men, de *Monts*, Captain; *la Providence*, a Brigantine, 4 Guns, and 30 Men, the *Chevalier de l'Escoet*, Captain; two *Pinks*,
or

or *Fly-Boats*, and four *Traversiers* (a sort of a Boat) each mounted with one Gun and a Mortar. To these were added two Frigats, the *Pontchartrain*, of 40 Guns, and 100 Men, commanded by *de Mornay* under *du Casse*, who choose it for himself; and another of *St. Malo*, containing 24 Guns, and 60 Men. These were, in point of Share in the Prizes, put on the same Footing with the *Bucaniers*: What that was we shall consider hereafter.

IN the whole were 110 Officers, 55 Guards ^{Number of} Marine, 2260 Seamen, and 1750 Soldiers: In all ^{Forces in} 4175 Men. The Captains of the Men of War ^{all.} served for General Officers, according to their Seniority, and were to be on Shore and on Board by Turns. *Du Casse* had the Command of the *Bucaniers* and Inhabitants of the Coast.

THE 28th, the whole Fleet met near *Cape Ti-Three* *buron*, the western Point of *Hispaniola*, where it ^{Places pro-} was debated whether they should attack *Cartagena*, ^{posed to be} *Puerto Bello*, or *La Vera Cruz*. *Du Casse* was for ^{attacked.} going to *Puerto Bello*, because, in his Opinion, they should either find the *Galleons* there, or in their Rout. And had his Advice been followed, they would all have made their Fortunes: for the *Galleons* were then at *Puerto Bello*, where they ran in great Fear on the Alarm of this Squadron, and had not been so richly laden for 50 Years before; their Cargoes being computed at 50 Millions of Crowns. But *de Pointis* reckoned this Undertaking hazardous: Because, if at Sea, 'twas a great Chance if they met them; and if in Port, the *Spaniards* would secure the Money on Shore before they could get near them. He owned he was able with his Force not only to take *La Vera Cruz*, but to batter the Castle of *St. Juan de Uua* to

A DESCRIPTION

Cartagena
pitched
upon.

Pieces: But they could not hope to meet with the Treasure there till the Moment the *Flota* departed, which would not be till *May* at soonest; and if they miscarried, they should then be obliged to return to *Europe* without doing any Thing, since there was no getting back again. He was therefore for attempting *Cartagena* first, as being to the Windward of the other Places, which might be attacked afterwards if he fail'd in his Design. This being resolved upon, they left *Cape Tiburon* and crossed over to *Samba*, a Cape and Port twelve Leagues on this Side of *Cartagena*; then doubling the Point of *Hicacos*, four Leagues distant, they cast Anchor in a great Bay, two Leagues short of the City.

Found in-
accessible
by Sea.

M R. *De Pointis* having been informed that the Riches of *Cartagena* (consisting chiefly in Gold and Emeralds) could not escape him, provided he seized on *Nuestra Sennora de la Popa*, which was fortified, resolved to land the *Bucaniers* in this Place, while, to cover his Design, he sent Ships to bombard the Town: But the 13th of *April*, going to find a Place fit for making the Descent, found the Waves breaking against Rocks which lay even with the Water; and that the nearer he drew to the City, the rougher the Sea was, though the Day was calm. At last, his Canow ran upon the Rocks, and with much Difficulty was brought off. The *St. Louis* and the *Fort* also touched Ground in advancing to cannonade it, nor could the larger Ships get up; so that tho' the City on this Side was defended only with Palisades, and Pieces of Walls in very bad Repair, yet they could do no hurt to it, nor did the Enemy mind to answer their Fire, Nature having sufficiently provided for its Security by the great Violence of the Sea,

Sea, which, on all this Coast, is in all Seasons an invincible Rampart. At length they found a proper Depth, and cast Anchor in a Place, which eight Years before, as they were informed, was a Plain where the People of *Cartagena* used to walk. Being thus made sensible that the City was inaccessible on this Side, they found themselves obliged to open a way by attacking *Boca chica*; from which they had till then been diverted by the Notion they had conceived of its great Strength.

THE 15th the Fleet came to anchor near the Mouth of the Port behind a sandy Bay, made by a Point of Land which sheltered them from the Guns of the Fort. The Sea here, though deep, ran pretty high: However, about two in the Afternoon they landed about half Cannon-shot from the Fort, without the least Opposition from the *Spaniards*; who might easily have prevented it, by firing on them, concealed in the Woods which lay close to the Shore. This Place not being fit to encamp in, they made a Way through the Wood to the Side of the Lake (which was but three Quarters of a Mile distant) and ranged Troops quite across the *Peninsula*, in order to cut off all Communication by Land between the Fort and the City; in the several Paths leading to which they fixed Places of Arms, or *Corps du Garde*, near enough to speak to each other. At the same time they began to bombard and cannonade *Boca chica*, which Work continued till Midnight, the Enemy making a very slow Fire in return.

THE Fort of *Boca chica* was a regular Square, encompassed with a dry Ditch eighteen Foot deep, and thirty-six wide. The Approaches on all Sides were on a very hard Rock: The Walls thirty-two Foot high, and eight thick, and of such hard Stone, that

The Forces land near the Mouth of the Harbour.

Fort of Boca chica described.

A DESCRIPTION

that a thirty-six Pounder at Musket-shot Distance made no Impression. The Rampart was forty Foot broad, and mounted with thirty-three Pieces of Cannon. The Bastions and Curtains towards the Land were complete : But towards the Sea there were Cisterns and Magazins terrassed, so as to be Proof against a Bomb. The Gallery took up eighteen Foot, twenty-four the Lodgment, and eighty the Place of Arms. The Channel which this Fort defends is so narrow, and turns in such a Manner, that there is no entering it without towing in the Vessel : So that only two Ships at anchor within might prevent a numerous Fleet from forcing its Way, even tho' there was no Fort at all in the Place.

*Prepara-
tions to
besiege it.*

THE Way they had made came out at a little Plain between the Wood and the Lake, where was a forsaken Village at the Foot of a rising Ground ; whence they could, under Shelter, view the Fort which was about a Musket-shot distant. Here the General arrived about six o'Clock, and posted two Companies of Grenadiers, a Battalion of Soldiers, and three hundred *Bucaniers*. The Night being pretty dark, he approached the Fort thro' the Wood, (which was a great Shelter to the Troops) accompanied by some Officers ; two of whom went round it by the Ditchside, without being discovered. In their Return they found the Land at a certain Distance, fit for making Trenches and Fascines. They also began to raise Batteries.

*Some Vef-
sels, sent to
its Relief,
miscarry.*

The 16th, very early, a large *Pereagoa* (or *Pirogue*) with sixty Men and Ammunition, and in the Afternoon two half Gallies with three-hundred Men on board, were sent by the Governor of the City to the Fort. The first, having had fifteen Men killed with the Enemies shot, was taken ;

ken; the others, judging it impossible to get by the Fire of the *Bucaniers* from the Strand, returned. From two *Franciscans*, taken in the *Pereagoa*, they understood that the *Galleons* were still at *Puerto Bello*, having been expected at *Cartagena* ever since the end of *October*. One of these was sent to exhort the Governor of the Fort to surrender: Which he refusing, the Mortars began to play from two Batteries, as well as from the Bomb-Vessels; the Ship *le Fort*, likewise advancing, fired briskly.

M R. *Du Casse* seeing his Men quite exposed to the Guns of the Fort, proposed arming two Boats, and attacking those of the Enemy: But instead of following him, they turned directly towards the Fort itself; and, making a furious Fire with their Muskets, beat the *Spaniards* from their Cannon. They advanced in this Manner to the Foot of the Counterscarp, where finding a Piece of covered Way, they there posted themselves. The General imagined that they ran away (as several before indeed had done, seeing some of their Companions fall by the first Discharge of the Enemy's Cannon) and coming up to *du Casse*, told him, *he was sorry he had any thing to do with such Men*. But perceiving the good Order of the *Bucaniers*, and that several Officers advanced to the Place, he began to conceive some Hopes; and marched to support them with *Levi* and the Governor, who engaged they would succeed in the Attempt. In short, being joined by a Battallion of Grenadiers as well as those who had fled, they made so continual a Fire, that the *Spaniards* durst no longer use their Muskets, but under Cover of their Intrenchments. They had likewise almost surrounded the Fort, had planted their Ensigns on the Side of the *Fosse*, possessed themselves of the Bridge, and called for Ladders:

A DESCRIPTION

Ladders: Whereupon *du Biffon* ran from the Landing-place across the Wood with his two Battalions; and Mr. *de Coetlogon* landed with a great Number of Men and Ladders. At the same Time the General arriving at the Foot of the Counterscarp, the Governor instantly set up a White Flag; and the Garrison from the Rampart being promised good Quarter, provided they immediately threw down their Arms into the Ditch, they instantly comply'd, shouting *Viva el Rey*.

*The Fort
surrenders.*

THE Gate, which was incumbered with *Barricados*, being at length opened, the Governor *Don Francisco Ximenes* came out, and approaching the French General, told him, that he delivered to him the Keys of all the Spanish West-Indies. Mr. *de Pointis* granted Liberty for himself, some of the Principal Officers, and for the President of *Santa Marta*, who was in the Place, and had been wounded.

*The Bucaniers
charged
with Cowardice by
de Pointis.*

THIS is the Account given by *Pere le Pers*: But M. *de Pointis*, on the contrary, taxes the *Bucaniers* with the utmost Cowardice on this, and indeed all other Occasions, excepting about twenty who were at the Head of them. He says, that neither the Signal of their Officer, *La Mothe*, who had pitched his Colours, nor his own Blows could make them advance towards the Fort, where, *Sorel* his Major-General with a small Company had posted himself at the Counterscarp, which for want of a Glasis, covered them from the Fire of the Rampart; and that it was those he sustained, and who took the Place, not the *Bucaniers*. However that be, the *Bucaniers* lost about forty Men, almost all on the Strand when they were exposed to the Enemy's Fire; and has as many wounded: Among the rest, M. *du Casse* in the Thigh, by a Cannon-Ball

Ball falling on a heap of Stones ; Mr. *Canette*, an Engineer, in the Arm ; and M. *Marin* in the Knee, of which Hurt he dy'd. *De Pointis* says, this Piece of Success did not cost him in all above fifty Men, *Bucaniers* included. There were in the Fort, Provisions and Stores for two Months. The Garrison consisted of three hundred Men, according to M. *de Pointis*, and two-hundred according to others, whereof near one third was slain or wounded. The rest being made Prisoners of War, a hundred Soldiers of the Coast of *San Domingo* were ordered to replace them : But not one of the *Bucaniers* was suffered to enter ; the Officers even threatened to fire at them if they did not retire, under Pretence that this was the only Condition the *Spaniards* had demanded. *The Loss on both Sides.*

THE 17th was spent in towing the Ships into the Harbour. As soon as the *Vermandois*, who entered first, had cast Anchor in View of the City, the *Spaniards* set Fire to three *Galleons*, and a Half-Galley : They also sunk some Boats in the narrow Passage, thro' the little Islands, mentioned in the Description.

THE *Bucaniers*, who made a great Noise about the Affront they sayed was put upon them, being (to pacify them) promised the Spoil of *Nuestra Sennora de la Popa*, if they would undertake to Master it, at four in the Afternoon embarked to cross the *Laguna*, or Harbour : But seeing the command of this Expedition given to M. *Donon de Galiset*, Lietutenant - Governor of *San Domingo*, (whom, tho' a Gentleman of great Parts and Learning, they did not love,) in place of M. *du Cassé*, who was ill of his Wound, they with one Voice declared they would not serve under him ; and M. *Galiset* having struck one of those who re- *Bucaniers Mutiny.*

fused to go into the Shallops, the Man took him by the Cravat.

How reduced.

COMPLAINT being made of this to the General, he ordered the Offender to be bound to a Tree and shot. The Cloth was already bound over his Eyes, when *de Galifet*, to ingratiate himself with the *Bucaniers*, went and asked Pardon for him, which was with much seeming Difficulty granted: The General having been informed also, that Capt. *Pierre* was one of those who began the Mutiny, went in a Canow and seized him on board his Ship, bidding him prepare for Death. He adds in his Journal, that the whole Band were so startled at this Step, and shewed so much Submission, that he could not avoid extending Mercy once more: But at the same time declaring to the *Bucaniers*, that on the first Complaint *de Galifet* made of them, he would cause them to be decimated. Other Memoirs, says *le Pers*, relate, that *de Pointis* pardoned them because he had no other way to deliver himself from the Hands of Men, who seemed to have lost all Patience, and were become furious. However this be, the Convent and its Fortifications cost the *Bucaniers* no more Trouble than the Voyage: But they found it quite abandoned and stripped, so that they got no Plunder.

N. S. de la Popa taken.

Fort of Santa Cruz deserted.

THE 18th *de Pointis* setting out at Day-break with the greater Part of his Forces, who took Provisions for two Days, arrived by Noon* at an old ruined Castle, a Mile and half from the Fort of *Santa Cruz*; which the Viscount *de Coetlogon* (who had advanced before with a Party of Grenadiers to choose a Place for encamping) found abandoned, the Cannon carried off, and the Lodgment burnt. This Place (which was smaller than *Boca chica*, but had good Ditches, a covered Way, and

a Glasis in good Condition) was inaccessible by Land, on account of the Morafs, and the Trees newly cut down, which obstructed the Passage for more than three Miles. Besides, it might with its Cannon have hindered the Ships from approaching near enough to cannonade the City.

THE General advancing pretty near the City De Pointis (which had three Bastions on this Side) found the Ramparts crowded with People of all Ranks, who came to behold the *French* Camp. He observed, that between the Sea and the Morafs, there was only a Neck of Sand about twenty Fathom over, and so low, that probably, in digging only two Foot deep, they met with Water. In the Night they found there was no Ditch, and that the Water of the Morafs washed the Foot of the Walls every where, excepting one Part of the greatest Bastion, called *San Domingo*, which the Neck of Sand encompassed; and that on the other side the Sea came up to the Bastion. Hence concluding it would be in vain to attack *Cartagena* on this Side, he resolved to cross the Harbour and lay Siege to *Hibimani*: Yet Sir *Francis Drake*, we find, attacked it in this very Place.

HE landed with the rest of his Troops over-against the City, leaving twenty Men in *Santa Cruz*, and a Battallion between the City and the Hill, whereon the Fort of *San Lazaro* was built. Here he met with *de Galifet*, who was come to attack it; but without the *Bucaniers*, who not being yet reconciled to him, refused to follow. The General posted himself in a Village, between *N. S. de la Popa* and the Fort: Which commanding all the Avenues, he found it was necessary to take before he could advance a Step towards the City; and yet it would cost much Trouble and Time to attack it in form with Artillery.

A DESCRIPTION

Fort San
Lazaro
taken.

tillery. The Hill is defended on every Side with a natural Glasis, and thick covered with Shrub-wood, which runs up to the Foot of the Wall : But it being discovered from another Hill which commands it, that the Fort did not take up the whole Space at Top, but had a good deal of plain Ground to the right, the *Negros* were ordered to cut a Road through the Wood. Having carry'd it half Way up, they divided to the Right and Left to encompass the Fort : Where, being arrived, they made a furious Fire, and calling for Ladders, only to terrify the Garrison, the latter retired thro' the Gate, which was then free to them. There were only nine killed and wounded in the Fort ; of the *French*, five Grenadiers and their Officer were killed, and two Officers wounded.

Hihimani
attacked.

San Lazaro was of small Strength, but by its Situation, mounting only six Guns ; which being supplied with seven Pieces of twelve and sixteen Pounders, were immediately levelled against the Lower City, by *de Mornay*, who was ordered with a hundred *Bucaniers* to take Possession of the Fort. Mean Time the Cannon of *Hihimani* played furiously on the Fort and the Troops ; who, after loosing sixty Men from the beginning of the Attack, were obliged to take shelter behind the Hill. But having now room to extend themselves, they advanced their Camp to the Chappel of *San Lazaro* (which is but a small Musket-shot from the City) being covered on one Side by several little Canals drawn from the Lake, and on the other by a high thick Wall, which, with the Trees, hindered the City-Bastions from discerning where they were.

THE Galliot and a Traversier, having advanced nearer the Town, began to fire their Mortars, but suffered

suffered much ; another Traversier shot through, sunk : but being raised on the twenty-second, and its Mortar placed on Shore, they began at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon to batter a Work which was in the middle of the Bridge of *Hibimani*, with such Success, that the *Spaniards* quitted it : But De Pointis the General was wounded in the Breast, while he was over-seeing a Breast-Wall that was erecting to cover his Troops ; which obliging him to keep his Bed for several Days, *de Levi* commanded in his stead.

THERE had been brought on Shore twenty-seven of the largest Cannons, and five Mortars ; and in six Days they had carried a Trench from the Chapel to the Bridge, and raised five Batteries, great and small : Two on the Side of *San Lazaro*, one of five Guns, carrying twelve and eighteen Pounders ; the other of nine Guns ; a third, called the *Royal-Battery*, of six Pieces of thirty-six and twenty-four Pounders, planted sixty Fathom from the Gate ; and another was raised at the Head of the Trench to beat down the two Flanks which defended the Bridge. The Mortars were placed between the Batteries, and did great Execution.

MAEN Time a Bark, sent from *Puerto Bello* by the General of the *Galleons* to the Governor of *Cartagena*, entering into the Harbour without any Suspicion of what had befallen *Boca chica*, was taken by the Frigats left there ; and in her were found Letters, in answer to the Notice the Governor had given of the Approach of the *French*, signifying the Care that was taken to secure the *Galleons*, and their Cargoes ; particularly, that the Silver had been relanded, and bestowed into the Castles ; the General deferring to send it all back to *Panama*, till he heard farther from him.

THE

A DESCRIPTION

THE 30th a *Negro* having advanced with a Flag of Truce in his Hand up to the Breach to enquire after his Relations, the Batteries ceased for a while, when *du Casse*, who mounted Guard in the Trenches with some Officers, approached and exhorted the *Spanish* Commander to surrender. He demanded two Hours Time. *Du Casse* would allow but Half an Hour; and taking this Opportunity to observe the Breach, which he found practicable, repaired to the General, and advised him to begin the Assault, which had been appointed for next Day.

Hihimani
assaulted.

ACCORDINGLY, about four o'Clock, *de Pointis* being carried to the *Royal Battery* gave Order for the Attack, which was led by *Du Casse*, *de Marolles*, *de Montrosser*, and *du Rollen*, at the Head of the Grenadiers from the Trench; *de Levi*, *de Coetlogon*, and *de Sorel* following with the Gros of the Officers. The *Bucaniers* commanded by *Macari*, and sustained by the Battallion of *Cbesneau*, marched after: But instead of following the Course of the Trenches, and covered Ways, as the Troops did, they took a short Cut, and forced the Passage, before the Grenadiers arrived. Then *du Casse*, putting himself at their Head, set up the *French* Colours on the Rampart. Mean Time the Bastions, which for two Days had been very quiet, made a furious Fire; yet the Troops, following the Example of the *Bucaniers*, got out of the Trench and marched a hundred and fifty Fathom uncovered to the Foot of the Breach. The two *Marolles*, *Montrosser* and *du Rollen*, who had gotten twenty Paces before the Grenadiers, were all stopped about the Middle of the Breach and wounded: But *de Levi*, *Sorel*, and other Officers, coming up that instant with some Grenadiers, made the *Spaniards* retire, and got Possession of the Platform over the Gate.

From

From hence descending to dislodge the Enemy from two Flanks that galled them, they were vigorously attacked half Way down the Steps by Soldiers intrenched under the Arch ; But in a Quarter of an Hour, they were almost all slain. The Commandant of *Hibimani*, who had been carried thither in an Elbow-Chair, and gave Orders with great Presence of Mind, seeing no Hope, discovered himself and was made Prisoner.

THIS Passage being free, the Troops advanced on both Sides of a large Street, which reached to the Causey leading to *Cartagena*, fighting all the Way with the Enemy, who coming in Sight of the Gate, made a Stand : But being driven to the Bridge, (contiguous to the Causey) which joins the two Cities, the Gate was shut to ; and part of the *Spaniards* remaining without, returned to the Charge, and drove back some of our Men ; but were repulsed in their Turn. It being now dark, the *French* began to entrench themselves at the Head of the Streets, waiting for the Day : But while they were at this Work, the Enemy who remained still in *Hibimani*, made a second Attempt ; and being driven into the City, which they enter'd by a little Port, they began to fire afresh upon their Retrenchments.

THE *French* had this Day two-hundred and fifty Men killed or wounded. The Viscount de Coet-*logon* died of a Hurt in his Shoulder, which at first seemed not to be dangerous. The Chevaliers, *de Marolles* and *du Rollen*, had each one Thigh broken, but Amputation could not save their Lives. The Chevalier *de Pointis*, the General's Nephew, a brave Gentleman, had his Knee shattered, of which Wound he dy'd also. *Du Casse*, who first mounted the Breach, was wounded in three Places. *De Sorel* like-

Taken after a vigorous Resistance.

Loss of the French.

A DESCRIPTION

Spaniards
Loss.

likewise, and thirteen other Officers were wounded. But the Enemy's Loss was much greater: In one Place only two-hundred of them, who had fled for Refuge to a Church, being put to the Sword. *De Pointis* reckons about nine-hundred and fifty of them killed.

Cartagena
Capitu-
lates.

THE first and second of *May* were spent in opening the Gate, mounting Guns on the Bastions of *Hibimani*, and repairing the Bridge for the Passage of the great Cannon that were to be mounted on a Battery to be raised on the Causey; which, with the Marsh dividing the Lower from the Upper City, are not a Musket-shot over. In the mean Time the City was bombarded both by Sea and Land. The Third, the Besieged made a great Fire from their Cannon, but were answered so effectually by the *Vermandois* and the *Scepter*, that the Governor, Count *Ugnez de los Rios*, without waiting till the Batteries began to play, caused several White Flags to be set up and a Parley to be beaten. He sent Deputies afterwards to propose a Capitulation to the General, with two of the most considerable Men among them for Hostages. At the same instant Advice came of eleven-hundred Men being on their March round the *Laguna* to throw themselves into *Cartagena*, by the Bastion of *Santa Catalina*, or *Saint Catherine*. But these Succours, hearing *Hibimani* was taken, turned back: tho' *de Pointis* says he could never learn the Reason of their not appearing.

The Arti-
cles.

THE 3d of *May* the Capitulation was signed, the chief Articles of which were; 1st, That the Governor, and all those carrying Arms should pass thro' the Breach, with Drums beating, and four Pieces of Cannon. 2. That all the King of *Spain's* Treasures and Effects, with the Books of Accounts, should

should be delivered to the General. 3. That the Effects of all such as went out, or were absent, should devolve to him. 4. That the Merchants should also deliver up their Books, with the Money and Effects of their Correspondents. 5. That those who went out of the Place should be allowed a certain Sum, and a Number of Slaves, but all liable to be searched. 6. That the Inhabitants should, under Pain of Confiscation, discover all the Gold, Silver, and Precious-Stones they were possessed of, whereof they were to keep one half. 7. That all Churches and Convents should be preserved. 8. That those who chose to stay in the Place, should enjoy all their Possessions and Privileges, excepting their Plate, and be regarded as the King's Subjects, being they were so by Conquest.

AT the Request of the Governor, the Sum agreed on to be carried out by the principal Officers and Persons of Consideration was doubled, which amounted to two-thousand Crowns a Head, but their Number was not great; and the sixth, the Governor followed by two thousand eight hundred Men under Arms (who passed for his Garrison) marched out thro' a Lane of all the *French*, that could be mustered. He was on Horseback as well as the General, whom having saluted with his Sword, after some Expressions of Civility, he continued his Way with the City-Colours, and two Pieces of Cannon drawn by Men for want of Horses, which was the Reason he left the other two behind. The first who went out were carefully searched, but as it produced little, and Night came on, the General ordered that the rest should pass free. Being unable for his Wound to sit his Horse, he was carried into the City in an Arm-Chair, preceded by a Battallion of Grenadiers, and sur-

The Governor and Garrison march out.

The General enters the City.

H rounded

A DESCRIPTION

rounded by all the Guards-Marine. To induce the Inhabitants to bring in all their Silver, he promised the Tenth Part to all who should sincerely discover what they had; and the same to those who should inform against such as concealed their Effects, whom he likewise threatened to punish for Disobedience: This had its Effects, and all comply'd.

*What the
Plunder
amounted
to.*

'Tis true, on the first Alarm of the *French* being at Sea, all the Women of Distinction had left the Place with their Jewels: The Nuns, with a hundred and twenty Mules loaden with Gold, had retired forty Leagues up the Country. However, Mr. *de Pointis* says, the Honour which the King's Arms had acquired, and eight or nine Millions which the *Spaniards* had kept for them, made him some Amends for that Loss: But he does not say these Millions were Millions of Crowns. Many affirm the Plunder amounted to forty Millions of Livres. By M. *du Cassé's* Account, there were more than twenty Millions, besides the rich Merchandizes, which were convey'd away, with five or six Millions in Gold or Silver. Another Memoir adds, that before any Soldiers were suffered to enter the Houses, they were visited by the Officers, the chief of whom had two-hundred thousand Ducats a-piece, over and above the Shares they were intitled to. As to the Honour the *French* acquired by their Bravery, they soon lost it by the most odious Crimes and Excesses they committed. The Capitulation violated, the Churches profaned, their Silver carried away, the Shrines of the Saints * broken, Virgins stripped at the very Altars, great Numbers of their own Sick Men left without

*Cruelties
and Exces-
ses of the
French.*

* 'Tis say'd they carry'd off the Images of the Twelve Apostles, all of Silver.

out Relief in the Hospital, where they perished thro' Rage and Dispair. The *Bucaniers*, on their Return to *Cartagena*, hereafter mentioned, found one yet breathing who had eaten his Arm, and another his Thighs. A Conquest like this, says *Pere le Pers*, ought to be forgotten, instead of being boasted of. The King was shocked at the little he heard of this Affair, and sent a Ship on Purpose to carry back to *Cartagena* the Silver and other sacred Things of which the Churches had been spoiled. However, *de Pointis* might not have been to blame, since he published severe Orders against such Excesses, and even caused his chief Carpenter to be shot for entering a House, and stealing something. But this Order lasted not long, for the Offenders one way or other found Means to conceal themselves. In short, the Officers pillaged as well as the Soldiers.

As soon as the City was taken, *de Pointis* declared he had Orders to keep it, and nominated *du Casse* Governor; who had a Mind to begin the Exercise of his new Employment, by taking account of the Silver that was brought in: But this was not the General's Intention, neither would he admit that any of the Colony of *San Domingo* should be present at the Reception of it. In short, having had some Words with the Governor, for giving Passes to several of the Inhabitants without his Knowledge, *du Casse* retired to *Hibimani*, and would meddle no more with any-thing.

*Du Casse
made Go-
vernor.*

At length the Gold, Silver, and Gems being secured in Chests, the *Bucaniers* were admitted into the City, after they had been kept out fifteen Days under various Pretences. Here beginning to murmur, because no Dividend was yet made, *de Pointis* promised it should be done as soon as it was found

*The Buca-
niers mur-
mur.*

A DESCRIPTION

*Cartagena
dismantled.*

*The General
embarked.*

*Dispute
about the
Dividend.*

found what the whole amounted to. Next Day, seeing the Chests putting on Board, they renewed their Murmurs, and would have hindered it, but for *du Casse*. They also refused to help to ship the Stores and Cannon which were still on the Ramparts of *Cartagena*, or to do any Thing till they had their Share. However, this being done by others, and part of the Bastions being already thrown down, on the 25th, the other Mines were sprung, and blew up the rest. * Presently after the General embarked with his Troops, as did *du Casse*, his Officers and *Bucaniers* on the 29th, and fell down towards *Boca chica*, below which the Squadron lay. He had, with the General's Order to embark, received the Account of the Silver, but was greatly surprized to find he and his People were to be allowed only forty-thousand Crowns, instead of a fourth Part of the whole, which he imagined they were intitled to, by the Articles of Agreement; by which he insisted the Division was to be made of the whole into equal Shares according to the Custom of the *Bucaniers*. But *de Pointis* affirms, the Purport of the Article (for we find no Copy of it) was, *That the Bucaniers should, Man for Man, have the same Shares of Booty, that was allowed to the Men on board the King's Ships*, that is, a Tenth of the first Million, and the thirtieth Part of every other Million, after what appertained to the King, the Admiral and the Armateurs was set apart. However, it is certain, that by an Agreement of the Adventures with *M. de Galifet*, who was sent to *France* to prosecute this Affair, they were allowed One Million four-

* *Pere le Pers* seems to confound this with the blowing up of *Boca chica*, which happened afterwards.

four-hundred thousand Livres for their Share; tho' by the Roguery of a Commissary, and the Failure of another Person, they were long kept out of it.

THE *Bucaniers* were so enraged at this Dividend, that *du Casse* had much ado to keep them from boarding the *Scepter*, where *de Pointis* then was. At length, one of them starting up, *Brothers*, sayed he, *we are in the wrong to quarrel with this Dog; he has taken away nothing of ours; he has left our Share at Cartagena, where we must go and look for it.*

The Bucaniers grow outrageous.

THE Proposal being unanimously approved of, gave a sudden Turn to their Chagreen; nor was it in the Power of *du Casse*, by Intreaties or Menaces, to divert them from the Resolution: All he could say, with regard to the Dishonour done the King by a Breach of Treaty, signified nothing.

THE *French* had scarce possessed themselves of the City, when the Air became infected, as it always is one time of the Year; and in six Days eight-hundred Persons were seized with contagious Distempers, whereof many have died. This is an Inconvenience which the *Spaniards* themselves are liable to; and often the *Galleons* have been detained in this Port for want of Hands to carry them to *Spain*. But the *Bucaniers*, being most seasoned to the Climate, are no more affected with the Unwholesomeness of the Air, than the Natives who are seldom touched with it.

The Calenture seizes the French.

THE 30th, the General was taken so ill with the Distemper, that it deprived him of his Senses: But he had in Time given up the Command to *de Levi*. The 31st compleated the Ruin of *Boca chica*, where they had been some Days at work in demolishing it. *Le Pers* tells us, that every one

Boca chica blown up.

one was for keeping this Fort ; that it was even agreed to leave there about four-hundred Men, including one-hundred Freed Negros, one-hundred *Bucaniers* in two Frigats, fifteen Gunners, and other necessary Workmen, with Provisions for eight Months ; and that *de Galifet* (then well with the *Bucaniers*) was chosen Governor ; that this Gentleman offered to keep the City too, provided only a hundred Men more were allowed him : But that the General falling from the Agreement, sprung the Mines unknown to them.

The Bucaniers return to Cartagena

THE same Day the *Bucaniers* sailed back into the Port to return to *Cartagena*, without Opposition ; all the Squadron, but the *Scepter*, being out at Sea. The first of *June* the Fleet set Sail ; so did *du Casse* in the *Pontchastrain*, accompanied with the *Mary*, and got to *San Domingo* in sixteen Days. The fifth they met a Vessel of (*Martinito*, sent by M. *d'Amblimont*, Governor - General, and Mr. *Robert Intendant* of the Isles, with Advice that on the 27th of *April*, a large Fleet of *English* Men of War arrived at *Barbadoes*, with a Design, either against *San Domingo*, or the Squadron sent to *Cartagena*. This made *de Pointis*, who was steering to *Cape Tiberon* to tack about for the *Gulf of Bahama* ; which Course, crossing the Passage between *Jamaica* and *Cartagena*, occasioned them to fall the sixth in the Night into the midst of the *English* Fleet, which they endeavoured to avoid. This was the Fleet under Admiral *Nevil*, sent after *de Pointis* to prevent his Designs, and convoy home the *Spanish Gallions*. As soon as Day appeared, they perceived twenty-eight Sail, half to the Windward almost within Cannon-shot ; others to the Lee, and the rest in their Sterns. The *French* Ships, besides the great

De Pointis falls in with the English Fleet.

great Disparity of Number, being only seven Ships and three Frigats, were sadly weakened by the Sickness and other Losses. This was doubtless a dismal Prospect to *de Pointis*, who indeed paints his Distress in lively Colours. However, they put the best Face on it, and prepared to fight: But the *Fort*, the *Apollo*, the *Avenant*, and the *Marin*, were quite disabled for want of Men. Nevertheless, this not being known to the *English*, who were themselves ill-mann'd, half of their Fleet, which had gotten within Reach of the *French*, would not attack them till the rest came up; and then the Admiral, instead of falling on them, stood forward to intercept their Passage for the *Streights of Bahama*. *De Pointis*, perceiving his Design, to disappoint him tacked about as soon as Night fell; and in the Morning perceived only nine Ships following them one after another. He continued the same Course till he came within twenty Leagues of *Cartagena*, which was on the ninth. He was then followed but by three *English* Ships; and when it was dark, he tacked about, and steered directly West; so that next Day they found themselves quite clear of the Enemy; and having escaped all the Rocks and Shoals in this Southern Passage, they doubled *Cape San Antonio*; and on the twenty-sixth entered the *Streights of Bahama*. They anchored at *Newfoundland* the 4th of *August*, and went to attack eight *English* Men of War, commanded by *Norris*, which lay at *St. John's*: But the *English* not venturing out, they proceeded; and on the twenty-fourth met with six *English* Ships, which they fought from three till seven in the Evening. Next Day they were almost out of Sight of the Enemies, who followed them till the twenty-sixth at Noon, and then tacked about: for

on

He escapes them.

on the twenty ninth, they arrived safe at *Brest*:
And here *M. de Pointis* Relation ends.

The Bucaniers Behaviour at Cartagena

LET us now return to the *Bucaniers*, whom we left at *Cartagena*. The Inhabitants, as it may well be imagined, were strangely terrified at their Return, not having had Time to put themselves in a Condition to make the least Resistance. The first Thing these Desperados did, was to shut up all the Men in the great Church; after which they sent Deputies, who spoke to them in these Terms:
 ' We are not ignorant that you consider us as
 ' Men without either Faith or Religion, as Devils rather than Men. The injurious Language
 ' with which you treat us on all Occasions, as
 ' well as your refusing to let us enter *Boca chica*,
 ' or treat with you about the Surrender of your
 ' City, are manifest Proofs what your Sentiments are. You see us here with our Arms in
 ' our Hands, ready to be revenged on you, if
 ' we please; and you without doubt expect the
 ' most cruel Punishments: The Paleness of your
 ' Countenances shews it; and your own Consciences doubtless tell you, what you deserve
 ' from us. But we are come to undeceive you,
 ' and let you know, that the odious Titles which
 ' you bestow on us do not belong to us, but to
 ' the General only, under whom you have seen
 ' us fight. That perfidious Man has deceived
 ' us; For though he owes the Conquest of the
 ' Town solely to our Valour, he has refused to
 ' give us our Share of the Fruit, as he had engaged to do; and thereby has layed us under a
 ' Necessity of paying you a second Visit. 'Tis
 ' not without Regret, that we find ourselves compelled to this; and we flatter ourselves that you
 ' will have Reason to praise our Moderation and
 ' Sin.

‘ Sincerity. We give you our Words to retire
 ‘ without committing the least Disorder, the Mo-
 ‘ ment you have payed us down five Millions.
 ‘ This is all we demand: But if you refuse to
 ‘ hearken to so reasonable a Proposal, you may
 ‘ expect the worst of Treatment, without being
 ‘ able to accuse any but yourselves and General
 ‘ *Pointis*, whom we give you leave to load with
 ‘ as many Curses as you please.’

THE Inhabitants easily perceiving that there *They plun-*
 was no other Answer to be made to this Discourse, *der the*
 but to bring the Adventurers the Sum demanded, *Place a se-*
 they immediately made a gathering of Gold, Sil- *cond Time.*

ver, and Jewels; which falling far short of the
 Sum demanded, the *Bucaniers* fell to ransacking
 every Place, not excepting the Tombs: But find-
 ing little, they put the principal Citizens to the
 Torture, to make them discover where their Riches
 were hidden. There were some, tho’ but few of
 them, who were guilty of such Cruelties as are
 scarce credible: But most of the rest chose ra-
 ther to make use of Stratagem than Violence.

One of the Contrivances which had most Effect was *Contri-*
 this: They sent for the two principal Inhabitants *vance to*
 of the City, who protesting that they knew of no *discover*
 Money concealed, they made a Shew of shoot- *the Riches.*

ing them; and then sent for two more, telling
 them the two former were put to Death for not
 confessing, and that all those who refused to answer
 the Questions put to them might expect the same
 Fate. They took care also to publish the same
 thing in the Church, where the Prisoners still
 were, which brought them in above a Million that
 same Day. One Action however of theirs gained
 them some Esteem among the *Spaniards*; for two
Bucaniers having murdered two Women, on Com-

plaint made to the Officers, a Council was held, and the Offenders shot according to Sentence.

*Contest
about Di-
viding the
the Booty.*

THE Adventurers having gotten all they could, at the End of four Days, began to divide the Plunder, about which a Contest arose. The *Bucaniers* gave the *Inhabitants of the Coast* to understand, that they ought not to expect equal Shares with them; alledging that *M. du Casse* had detained them three Months at *Petit Goavé*, where they were put to great Expense, whereas the *Inhabitants* continued at home till the Moment they embarked on Board the King's Ships, where they were maintained at the King's Expense. But while they were disputing, the *Martinico-Bark* before-mentioned came to acquaint them that they were in Danger of meeting the *English Fleet*, which News made them agree. 'Tis sayed, each Man's Share in Silver amounted to one-thousand Crowns; and that the Dividend of the Merchandizes and Negros, which was to be made at the *Isle of Avaché*, would amount to a great deal more. This done, they set Sail, being nine Ships in all. They had not gotten above thirty Leagues before they perceived the *English Fleet*, which they endeavoured to escape from, each crowding all the Sails they could. The *Christ*, which carried above One Million, and was commanded by *Cotuy*, who had two-hundred and fifty Men, was taken first by the *Dutch*, eight of which Ships were in the Fleet. The *Cerf-Volant*, of the same Wealth and Force, commanded by *Pierre*, fell to the *English*. A third Ship ran a-ground and was burned on the Coast of *San Domingo*, but the Crew were saved with their Silver. A fourth was stranded on the Coast of *Cartagena*, and the Men fell into the Hands of the *Spaniards*, who made them work

*They are
met and
spoiled by
the En-
glish Fleet.*

to

to repair the Fortifications which they had ruined. The other five with much Difficulty got into different Ports of *San Domingo*.

As for the Prisoners taken in the *Cbrist* and *The Encerf-Volant*, they remained with the *English*, who ^{glisch cen-} treated them with a Severity, says *Pere le Pers*, ^{sured.} which none of the Europeans are capable of, but those Islanders. Were not those as capable who acted the horrid Crimes he reproached them with a little before? They were all brought to *England* (except a few who were left in *Virginia*) and, according to our Author, would have starved in Jail, if the Peace had not quickly released them.





Of PUERTO BELLO.

SECT. I.

The Description of the City and its Harbour.

Its Name. **P**UERTO BELLO, for so 'tis written by the Spaniards, who pronounce it *Pwerto Bello*, or *Pwerto vello*, giving the *b* the Force of a *v*; and hence, in the *History of the Bucaniers*, we find *Puerto velo*, with a single *l*. The Word *Porto Bello*, which we commonly use, is the *Italian* Name, from whence comes the Contraction *Porto Bel*, which was formerly in use with us, and occurs in several Authors.

Puerto Bello signifies a *Fine Port*; which Name was given to it by *Columbus*, who discovered it on the 2d of *November*, 1504. The Name of the Town, according to *Herrera*, is *San Felipo*, or *Saint Philip*, tho' it commonly goes by the same Name as the Harbour. *Capt. Parker*, who took it in 1601, says it was called *Triana*; at least one Part of it.

Situation. *Puerto Bello* is situate in the Province of *Castillo del Oro*, or *Golden Castile*, in the Coast of the North Sea, about the Middle of the narrowest Part of the Isthmus, which joins the Peninsula of *South-America* (to which it belongs) to that of *North-America*. It stands eight Leagues to the West of the Harbour of *Nombre de dios*, eighteen North North-East of the Mouth of the River *Chagre*,

Cbâgré, and eighteen North and by West of *Panamá* on the South-Sea ; from whence the Isthmus in this Part is called the Isthmus of *Panamá*.

THE Harbour of *Puerto Bello*, according to the Plan in the *Seat of War*, runs North-East into the Land, about two Miles and a half. Its Mouth facing the South-West, is near a Mile over, where it is narrowest, widening more within, which renders it capacious and secure for Shipping. In the North-Corner of the Harbour, there are two Bays running into the Land : That to the Westward is small ; the other is near a third Part as large as the Harbour itself, and enters a great Way into the Land by a narrow Channel. The *Spaniards* call it the great *Laguna*, or *Lake* ; and hither the Ships run to secure themselves in case of Danger from an Enemy : But Admiral *Vernon's* Visit was so unexpected, that the Ships then in Port had not time, or thought it needless, to provide for their Safety. There is no Sign of this *Laguna* in the new Plan ; and the lesser seems to be expressed, not so truly as in the other Plan.

The Harbour described.

Great Laguna, or Lake.

IT is formed by a Peninsula, about four Miles in Length, joined to the Main-Land by a very narrow Isthmus. The South Point of this Peninsula is at the Mouth of the Harbour. The Western Point, is two Miles distant to the North West ; and near it is a little Island, which, in the new Plan brought over by Capt. *Rentone*, is called *Sir Francis Drake's Island*, (this being probably the Island near *Puerto Bello*, where that famous Admiral dy'd) and is placed more to the South-East, and farther from the Coast. Three-quarters of a Mile West of the Island are the Rocks, called *Salmadinos*. From the Western Point, the Coast runs North-East for about ten Miles to another Point of Land, where it turns to

The Peninsula that forms it.

A DESCRIPTION

The Mi-
rias.

to the Eastward. About half Way between these two Points, at the Head of the Peninsula, lye four Islands, which I take to be those called by the Spaniards, *las Mirias*, or *Miras*, and the most Northern of them to be that named *Cagada*, in former Plans, and the Pilots; which are very confused and faulty in the Description of all these Coasts. To the East of the last Point are two small flat sandy Islands without Wood or Water, lying one after the other, the first of which is so near the Point, that Ships cannot safely pass between; and about eight or nine Miles Eastward of them, and twenty from *Puerto Bello*, are four others, called the *Bastimentos*, that is, *Provisions*, because the Land is fruitful, and affords Plenty of Cattle. These Islands, which are high and woody, all together make a very good Harbour between them and the Shore, which is but half a Mile distant from the nearest. Here Admiral *Hofier* lay with a Squadron in 1726, to block up the *Galleons* in *Puerto Bello*. About a Mile or two to the Eastward, are two or three little Keys, or Rocky-Islands at the Mouth of the Harbour of *Nombre de Dios*.

The Basti-
mentos.

Mouth of
the Har-
bour.

THE Coast of the Continent, opposite to the South Point of the Peninsula, jutting out somewhat, forms the Mouth of the Harbour. Beyond this (about half a Mile by the New-Plan, but a Mile or two by that in the *Seat of War*) the Coast makes a Point of Land, and turns almost due South for some Space, and then tends to the South-West again. Not far from this Point is a little Island, called *Buena Aventura*; and opposite to it, in the Continent, below the Point, is a small Port of the same Name. *Herrera* puts this Port three Miles from *Puerto Bello*: Others place the

Island,
Buena
Aventura.

the *Mirias* not far from thence. In order to settle this Matter, we stand in need of a more particular and extensive Plan, or Chart, than that brought over by Capt. *Rentone*; which, excepting what relates just to the Parts about the Castles, seems to be less exact than the Plan given in the *Seat of War*: nor indeed, is it say'd to have been actually surveyed by Mr. *Durel*, but only drawn by him, without signifying how it was drawn, or how far it may be depended on for Accuracy.

THE Harbour has sixteen Fathom of Water at the Mouth, and twelve for the most part all the way through the Middle within. 'Tis exceeding convenient and secure, by reason of the good Ground for anchoring, and a Creek in the same, defended from all sorts of Winds, without Rocks and Flats within. 'Tis surrounded with Woods, affording Plenty of excellent Timber for Ships; hath abundance of good Gravel for Ballast: Several Rivulets fall into it, very convenient for Watering-Ships. Some reckon no less than twelve of these Streams; and the Plans make about seven or eight, including two Watering-Places on the left Side. There is one larger than the rest, called *Rio de Castajal*, or the *River of Gravel-Pits*: It runs about a Mile from the Town on the East-Side, and falls into the Harbour at the farther End of it. The Road to *Panamá* lies along it for some Miles. For these and other Reasons, the famous Architect, *Baptista Antonelli*, advised the King of *Spain* to remove the Port from *Nombre de Dios* hither.

THERE is no Place about whose Situation Authors have more egregiously err'd. Some make the Harbour lye from North to South, others from West to East; and some of those, who were at the

Goodness of the Port.

Errors of Authors.

Of Pop-
ple's and
Moll's
Map, as
to the Di-
stances.

the late taking of *Puerto Bello*, have so described it in the Accounts they sent to their Friends. The Maps differ no less: But of all the late ones I have seen, that of Mr. *Popple* is the worst in this respect; for there this Harbour appears like a great Bay or Road for Ships sixteen Miles wide, and opens to the North, very different even from the Plan inserted therein. The *Bastimentos* are placed ten Miles from the Coast. The old exploded Maps represent it in this Manner: In *Moll's* and other Maps, the Mouth of the Harbour faces the North-West. The Plans are no less erroneous: They place the Mouth of the Port directly West; and exhibit the Peninsula which forms it, much out of Shape.

As to the
Latitude
and Lon-
gitude.

THEY are equally faulty, with respect to the Astronomical Situation of the Place: According to Mr. *Popple's* Map, it stands in Latitude $9^{\circ}, 54$ m. Longitude $82^{\circ}, 25$ m; according to *Moll's* and others, Latitude $9^{\circ}, 50$ m. Longitude $81^{\circ}, 40$ m. Whereas, by several exact Observations in 1704, *Pere Feuillée* determined its Latitude $9^{\circ}, 33$ m. 5 s. and its Longitude by the Satellites of *Jupiter* $82^{\circ}, 10$ m. West of *Paris*, and consequently $79^{\circ} 45$ m. West of *London*. The Grossness of these Errors is the more remarkable on Mr. *Popple's* side, because it is pretended in the Map itself, that the Author made use of all the Astronomical Observations, Maps and Surveys that could be found. As for *Moll*, he was very little of a Geographer, tho' he called himself one, as Engravers often do. He seldom pretended to more than to copy the Maps of others: And for want of Skill frequently chose the worst. However he was desirous of Information; and ready to

to correct or improve his Maps to the best of his Knowledge.

THE Town is finely situated on the Right-^{The Town.} side of the Harbour, about a Quarter of a Mile from the End of it, in a Plain (watered by three Rivulets) that lies at the Foot of the Hills towards the South-East. The King of *Spain* in the Year ordered the Houses of *Nombre de Dios* to be pulled down, and *Puerto Bello* to be built, which was performed by *Peter Arias*. There were not above ten Houses in the Place, and the Foundation only of a Fort was layed, when Sir *Francis Drake* made his last Voyage in 1595: But it increased so fast, that when Capt. *Parker* took it in 1601, he tells us, it was a beautiful Town, though newly built; had two goodly Churches finished; and six or seven Streets filled with Merchants, and Artificers of all Sorts, besides the four Forts hereafter mentioned.

IN the New Plan of the Harbour, there is marked *Old Puerto Bello* at the very End, or Eastern-Corner of the Harbour. Probably the first Houses were built there, but the Town did not long continue in that Situation, for in 1601 it stood in the Place where it does at present. It is not quite half a Mile long by the said Plan. 'Tis divided by a small Brook, which rises at the Entrance of the Town towards the Country, and falls into the Harbour, a little to the West of the Causey leading to Fort *San Geronimo*. The Part on the Right-side of the Brook, towards the End of the Harbour, is the larger. In the other Part is a large Square, or Parade, on one Side of which is the Governor's House. It has two Churches; a Treasury, a Custom-house and Exchange. But after all, 'tis a poor inconsiderable Place at all Times, if you except six

A DESCRIPTION

Weeks in the Year, when the *Galleons* are in Port. 'Tis inhabited chiefly by *Negros* and *Mulattos*, and the Factors of the *Spanish* Merchants, whose chief Warehouses are here: But who (on account of the Unwholesomeness of the Air) dwell at *Panamá*, and only come to *Puerto Bello* at the Time of the Fair. Then indeed it is very populous, there being more People to be seen here at that Time than at any Place in *South-America*, tho' its constant Inhabitants do not exceed five-hundred Families: The Houses are about the same Number.

The Air
very Un-
healthy.

THE Town is quite open without Walls, nor ever had any; and the Castles being now destroy'd, it is become an open Port, which doubtless will be frequented more than ever it was. The Air is not much healthier here than at *Nombre de Dios*, being very hot, and apt to cause Fevers. Some ascribe the Badness of the Air to certain Vapours that exhale from the Mountains: Others to the Exhalations from Marshes stagnating in the Woods. Doubtless, it is owing to the great Heat and Moisture of the Climate. The Rains in those Parts, during Winter, are so excessive, as to render the Country not very habitable. At this Time it is Death to let the Feet take wet when it rains: But especially when the Fleet is here, 'tis an open Grave, ready to swallow Part of the Multitudes which resort thither. The Year that I was there, says *Gage*, five-hundred Soldiers, Merchants and Sailors lost their Lives, what with Fevers, the Flux, (caused by eating too much Fruit and drinking of Water) and other Disorders. As this is usual every Year, there is a large and rich Hospital in the Town, with many Fryers, called *De la Capacha*, and *de Juan de Dios*, whose sole Business it is to attend the Sick and bury the Dead.

In

of PUERTO BELLO.

67

In short, 'tis so unwholesome a Place, that none who can help it will live here.

WHEN 'twas resolved to remove the Port hither *Its Strength* from *Nombre de Dios*, they began to fortify it. *Baptista Antonelli*, a famous Engineer according to *Herrera*, built a Castle here, and appointed another on the opposite Side to defend the Entrance. This was doubtless the strong Platform, which was only beginning to be built in 1595, (when Sir *Francis Drake's* Fleet put in there) with three Brass Guns unmounted. This first Fort at the Mouth of the Harbour, we are told, had only five Guns, and the Tower on the opposite Shore was mounted with eight Drakes.

IN 1601, when Capt. *Parker* surprized the Town by Night, it had four Forts; three small ones on the Side the Town is of, and another on the other Side, at the Entrance of the Harbour. That called *Saint Philip*, he describes as a strong and stately Castle, defended by thirty-five great Pieces of Brass Ordnance, and fifty Soldiers; the most Westward of the others, which stood directly opposite, was named *Saint Jago*.

IN 1637, the Harbour was fortified with three *Forts in* Castles, two at the Mouth (perhaps those of *San* ^{1637.} *Felipe* and *San Jago*) and one farther in, called *San Miguel*, which could reach and command each other. *Gage* visited them, and they seemed to him very strong. In the *Bucanier's* Account of Capt. *Morgan's* taking *Puerto Bello*, in 1669, Mention is made of several Forts, particularly two almost impregnable Castles which defended the Entrance, so that no Ship nor Boat could pass without Permission; and that the Garrison consisted of three-hundred Soldiers. *Charleveaux*, in his History of *San Domingo*, tells us, that *Morgan* took

A DESCRIPTION

both the Forts of *San Jago*, and *San Felipe* by Storm: But this must be a Mistake, unless the Name of the latter was transferred to the Fort of *San Jago*, which does not seem probable; tho' some Authors place *San Felipe* on the Coast just opposite to the Point where the *Iron Castle* lately stood.

Strength
in 1679.

Morgan blew up the first of the Castles that lay in his Way, (which must have been that of *San Jago*) but it appears from the President of *Panamá's* Letter, inserted in Capt. *Sharp's* Voyages, that it was rebuilt the next Year, and the Fort *San Geronimo* erected: In short, the Fortifications were so well strengthen'd, that *Morgan* would not venture to attack it the second Time. And the *Bucaniers*, in 1679, thought it safest to attack the Town on the Land-side, out of reach of the Forts. At their being here, the Town and Harbour were guarded by four Forts, as appears from the following Account by *Waser*, viz. A very strong one, doubtless *San Felipe*, at the Entrance on the left Hand; another on the opposite Side, which I take to be *San Jago*; a third farther in, near the Town, about a Furlong from the Shore, perhaps called *Castillo de la Gloria*; and the fourth, in the Harbour itself, facing the Middle of the Town, which must have been the *San Geronimo* Fort.

Fortifica-
tions im-
proved.

AFTER this, the Fortifications of *Puerto Bello* underwent a Change. The Fort of *San Jago* was demolished, but the other three were greatly strengthened, being either quite new built, or much enlarged, and that of *San Felipe* changed its Name to that of *Castillo del Hierro*, or the *Castle of Iron*, in Allusion to its Strength: But, as if that did not express it sufficiently, they commonly called it *Todo Hierro*, or *All Iron*. It is customary with the

the *Spaniards* to change the Names of their Forts after they have been taken, especially such as are called after their Saints; either in Resentment to those Saints for not protecting them, or superstitiously deeming it unlucky to continue the Name under which the Misfortune happened to them. Thus we find the Names of the Forts of *San Lazaro*, and *Santa Cruz* at *Cartagena*, have been changed since they were taken by *de Pointis* in 1697. And all these Alterations I judge to have been made since that Year, but at different Times.

At the Time *Puerto Bello* was taken by Ad-^{Strength}miral *Vernon*, the Castles were in the following in 1739.

Condition: The *Iron Castle* was square, with four Iron Ca-Bastions standing on a Rocky Hill, or Eminence, ^{ste.}

from whence the Fortifications were carried down to the Coast, and round the Point a pretty Way within the Harbour; and this was called the Lower Battery, mounted with twenty-two Guns. The whole was mounted with a hundred Guns, and was defended by a Garrison of three-hundred Soldiers. No Ships could pass without coming within half shot of the Cannon.

THE second Castle stood less than a Quarter ^{Gloria} of a Mile to the South-West of the Town, and ^{Castle.} was called *Castillo de la Gloria*, or the *Castle of Glory*. It was built on the Descent of a Hill, and was both larger and stronger than the *Iron Castle*, but no regular Fortification. It seemed to have been built at several Times, by adding one Part after another. That which was properly the Fort stood about a Furlong distant from the Shore; 'twas small and square: And this seems to have been the Fort which was in Capt. *Morgan's* Time. The Space between the Fort and Coast was taken in

in by Walls which formed two large Inclosures; and from thence the Fortifications were carried down to the Side of the Harbour, in form of two great Bastions, joined by a Curtain along the Shore: And this Work made the Lower Battery, with twenty-two Guns, besides a Line of eight Guns pointing to the Mouth of the Harbour, wherein the chief Strength of the Castle seemed to consist. The whole was mounted with a hundred and twenty Guns, and had a Garrison of four-hundred Men.

St. Je-
rom's Fort.

THE third Fort was called *Castillo de San Geronimo*, or *St. Jerom's Castle*. It stood facing the middle of the Town, about half a Furlong distant, being joined to the Land by a narrow Causey. It was somewhat smaller than the *Iron-Castle*, exclusive of its Lower Battery, though a more regular Fortification, being a Square, with four Bastions; but weak in comparison of either of the other two, as mounting but twenty Guns at most, some say only sixteen, others but twelve. In short, *Puerto Bello* was reckoned the strongest Port in the *Spanish West-Indies*, next to the *Havana* and *Cartagena*, when it was taken last Year by Admiral *Vernon*. Besides these, there is (as I have been informed by one who was at the taking of *Puerto Bello*) a Fort, or round Tower, called *San Josefe*, with eight or ten Guns at most, built on a little Rock, standing in the Sea close to the Shore at the farther end of the Harbour to the N. E. of the Town, about the Place where the Old Town is marked in the New Plan: This Fort, it seems, was neither taken nor blown up by our Forces.

THE Account of *Puerto Bello*, which *Wafer* had from the *Bucaniers*, who took it in 1669 under Capt. *Croxon*, is so particular, and tallies so

so well with those lately brought from hence, that it may not be amiss to subjoin it.

Porto Bel (so *Wafer* as well as *Gage* writes it) Wafer's Description of Porto Bel. is a very fair, large, and commodious Harbour, affording good anchoring and shelter for Ships. It has a narrow Mouth, and spreads wider within.

The *Galleons* from *Spain* find good riding here during the Time of their Business at this Place ; where they take in the Treasures of *Peru* brought over-land from *Panamá*. The Entrance is secured by a Fort on the Left Hand going in. [This was the *Iron-Fort*.] 'Tis a very strong one, and the Passage is made more secure by a *Block-house* on the other Side opposite to it. [This was the Fort *San Jago* afterwards demolished.] At the Bottom of the Harbour lies the Town, bending along the Shore like a Half-moon ; in the Middle of which, upon the Sea is another small low Fort environed with Houses except only to the Sea. [This was *San Geronimo* Fort.] And at the West-End of the Town, about a Furlong from the Shore, upon a gentle Rising lies another Fort, [This, after its Enlargement, was called *Castillo de la Gloria*,] pretty large and very strong ; yet over-looked by a neighbouring Hill farther up the Country, which Sir *Henry Morgan* made Use of to take the Fort. In all these Forts, there may be about two or three-hundred Soldiers in Garrison.

THE Town is long and narrow, having two principal Streets besides those that go across, with a small Parade about the Middle of it, surrounded with pretty fair Houses : [This is the Square where the Governor's House stands at present.] The other Houses also and Churches are pretty handsome after the *Spanish* Fashion. The Town lies open to the Country, without either Wall or Works ; and

at

A DESCRIPTION

at the East-side of it, where the Road to *Panamá* goes out (because of Hills that lie to the Southward of the Town and obstruct the direct Passage) there lies a long Stable, running North and South from the Town, to which it joins. This is the King's Stable for the Mules that are employed in the Road between this and *Panamá*.

THE Governor's House is close by the great Fort on the same rising at the West of the Town. Between the Parade, in the Middle of the Town, and the Governor's House, is a little Creek or Brook with a Bridge over it; and at the East-End by the Stable, is a small Rivulet of Fresh-Water.

I HAVE already sayed it is an unhealthy Place. The East-side is low and swampy, and the Sea at Low-Water leaves the Shore within the Harbour bare a great Way from the Houses: Which having a black filthy Mud, it stinks very much, and breeds noisome Vapours, thro' the Heat of the Climate. From the South and East-side, the Country rises gently in Hills, which are partly *Woodland* and partly *Savannah*; but there is not any great Store either of Fruit - Trees or Plantations near the Town: Thus far *Wafer*.

Trade.

As to the Trade of *Puerto Bello*, there is little or none here all the Year, but at the Time of the Fair; and the Inhabitants live chiefly by letting their Lodgings and Shops at that Time: But the Trade which is carried on during this Fair is greater than what is carried on in some rich Cities for the whole Year; and for that time it may be sayed to be the richest City in the World. But as these Riches do not stay there, but are carried away by the Merchants (even those of the Town living at *Panamá*) it is all the Year besides a very poor Place.

THE

THE Trade is carried on in the following *Vast resort.*
Manner. The *Galleons*, after some Stay at *Cartagéna*, repair hither and land the Merchandize they brought from *Spain*. As soon as they arrive, a Messenger is dispatched to *Panamá*, to hasten the King's Treasure, and the Merchandizes of *Peru* and *Chili*, which have been already brought there in two Ships: For after Notice has been sent from *Cartagéna* to *Panamá* and *Peru*, of the Arrival of the *Galleons* as has been mentioned, 'tis wonderful to see in how short a Time, and with what Quantities of Money and Goods the Merchants flock from all Parts: Immediately there is not a Lodging, or Garret to be had in *Puerto Bello* for Money; and a Chamber, able to hold but a Bed and some Chests of Money, shall let at the Rate of fifty Crowns for twenty Days only.

THERE are two Ways of sending Goods be- *Ways of*
tween these two Ports, one by Land, a Journey *conveying*
of eighteen Leagues, thro' the Towns of *Bujio*, *the South*
Pequeni, and *Boqueron*. This Road, which is *Sea.*
much better than that from *Nombre de Dios*, is taken in Summer: The other goes by Land as far as *Venta de Cruzes*, seven Leagues from *Panamá*, and thence by Water; the Goods being there embarked on the River *Chágré*, and conveyed to the Mouth of it, above twenty-six Leagues distant. This Road is often taken in Winter, when the Ways by Land are rendered impassable by the great Rains and Floods, which, falling from the Mountains, over-flow the Country. When the River is full of Water, the Voyage is performed in two or three Days; at other times they are six, eight, ten, twelve, and even more, Days in the Passage. From the Mouth of the *Chágré*, the Goods are carried by Sea to *Puerto Bello*, eighteen Leagues distant, in
L eight

A DESCRIPTION

eight or nine Hours. The River *Châgré* in Summer being very low, full of shallow Places, and incumbered with Rocks and Trees, the King's Treasure and the Merchandizes are sometimes carried twenty-three or twenty-four Leagues by Land to the River *Brazaz* which falls into the *Châgré*, about ten Leagues from its Mouth, and thence conveyed by those Rivers as before.

THE Treasure is carried by Land from *Panamá* on Mules, so many in a String, which are called *Requas*. Gage was surprized to see such a Number of them laden with Wedges of Silver; In one Day he told two-hundred Mules, whose Wedges were unladen in the Market of *Puerto Bello*, and lay carelessly exposed like Heaps of Stones. The Goods are conveyed down the *Châgré* in Periaguas and Canows, also Sloops and Barks; and often part of the Merchants bring their Goods by Water, while the rest go by Land. Commodities are in like Manner transported from *Puerto Bello* to *Panamá* by Way of the *Châgré*, when there is Water enough in its Channel.

More
chargeable
than by
long Sea.

ALTHO' the sending the Treasure across the Isthmus shortens the Way, yet it increases the Charges; the Land-Carriage for those eighteen Leagues, joined to the unloading and loading again of the Goods, being much more expensive than the whole Voyage by long Sea, tho' near thrice as far about. Was there indeed a Communication opened between the North and South Seas, by cutting a Canal thro' the Isthmus, or from the River of *Panamá* to the *Châgré*, and these Rivers made navigable for large Vessels, the Transportation might be rendered both more easy and less expensive. This Project has been often proposed to the Council of *Spain*, in order to shorten the Voyage

Voyage to *China* and the *Moluccos*, but they have never thought fit to execute it, for Reasons best known to themselves; those assigned by *Acosta*, *Gage*, and some other Authors appearing very frivolous or improbable.

As soon as the Merchants with their Goods are come to *Puerto Bello* the Fair begins, which is one of the greatest in the World: For in less than forty or fifty Days there is sold of all Sorts of *European* Goods, to the Value at least of twenty Millions of Crowns ready Money. Its a surprising Sight to see, that in less than twenty Days the Trade shall rise to such a Height, that the Ships shall take twenty or twenty-five Millions of Pieces of Eight on board, besides the Quantity of *Cochineal*, *Indico*, *Stuffs*, *Drugs*, and other Goods loaded afterwards, and all dispatched with the greatest Order and Ease imaginable: The Consignments all regular, the Money duly registered, with the Marks and Numbers distinct, and all settled; and in a Month more the Ships set Sail, and the Place begins to look empty again as it was before.

DURING the Time of the Fair, a very small Shop costs a thousand Crowns for that Time only, and a Bed-chamber however little, twelve-hundred; a Pidgeon, six or seven Shillings; and Beef, which at another Time is not worth Three-pence a Pound, will then bring Twelve-pence. The *Indian* Merchants, (of whom there are many, and some very rich,) encamp without the Town in Tents and Hammocks: Horses and Mules are turned out to graze in the Woods.

WEIGHTS and Measures are not used in Trade here. All things are sold by Wholesale; and the Piles of Silver in Ingots lye as carelessly as Pigs

*Fair of
Puerto
Bello.*

*Dearness of
Lodgings
and Pro-
visions at
that Time.*

of Lead in another Place. When the Fair is over, the Gold and Silver (at least the greater Part of it) is put on board the *Galleons*; the rest of the Merchandize, such as Indico, Cochineal, Cocao, &c. on board the Merchant-ships. This done, the Officers visit them, to see that the King is not cheated: Or to *speake properly*, (says a certain late Writer) *to see that he is cheated, for a valuable Consideration*; and the same happens on their Return to *Europe*.

Gage's

Account of
of this Fair

WHAT Gage relates on this Occasion in his Survey of the *West-Indies* is worth reciting. Lodgings, says he, were very cheap, nay, some were offered me for nothing till the *Galleons* came; but I was then to quit them or pay a dear Rate. The King's Treasurer was so kind as to go with me to look for one that might be mine, even when the Ships arrived; they asked a hundred and twenty Crowns for a Chamber (no bigger than would hold a Bed, a Table, and a Stool or two, with just room to open and shut the Door) during the Stay of the Fleet, which is commonly a Fortnight, [but the Stay is longer at present,] for the Town being but small, there are sometimes scarce Lodgings enough for the Concourse of People: For besides the Merchants from *Spain*, *Peru*, and many other Parts, who come to buy and sell, there are at least four or five-thousand Soldiers, who come with the *Galleons* for their Defence. I knew a Merchant who gave a thousand Crowns for a Shop of reasonable Bigness, for the fifteen Days only that the Fleet continued the Year I was there.

A thousand
Crowns for
a Shop for
fifteen
Days.

My Dyet I concluded would come to as much more: But not a Farthing would be abated on the Score of my being robbed at Sea. The Treasurer

surer pitying me, promised to pay half the Sum; yet, till the Fleet came, I would not lye in that dear Hole, but accepted of a handsome Lodging which I had for nothing. Within ten Days it came in, consisting of eight *Galleons*, and ten Merchant-ships, when it was a wonder to see the Multitude of People in those Streets which had been empty the Week before. Then began the Price of Things to rise; a Fowl to twelve Rials, which before cost but one, a Pound of Beef brought two Rials, when in other Places, one might have had thirteen Pound for half a Rial: And so of other Provision, which was so dear, that I was forced to live on Fish and Tortoise, which tho' the cheapest was dear enough.

IT was worth seeing how Merchants sold their Commodities; not by the Ell or Yard, but by Piece and Weight; nor paying in Money, but in Wedges of Silver, which were weighed as Commodities.

THE Fair lasted but fifteen Days, while the *Galleons* were lading with Wedges of Silver and nothing else. And for that Time I dare boldly affirm, that in the World there is no greater Fair than that of *Porto Bel*, (as he calls it) between the *Spanish* Merchants and those of *Peru*, *Panamá*, and other Parts thereabouts. *No greater Fair in the World.*

TO this Account of *Gage*, we shall farther add from him, that he could not get his Passage for *Europe* in one of the *Galleons* under three-hundred Crowns, so he went on board a Merchant-man where he was entertained as Chaplain. They were eight Days sailing to *Cartagena*, when the Inhabitants for their own Sakes would have had them stay the Winter, but the Admiral would not; and in eight Days more they got to the *Havana*, where they

A DESCRIPTION

they stayed eight Days longer, waiting for the *Flota*, which not coming they set forward without it.

Puerto Bello has been taken several Times, and all by the *English*. First by Sir *Francis Drake*, or his Fleet, in 1595; by Capt. *Parker* in 1601; by Capt. *Morgan*, in 1669; by Capt. *Coxon*, in 1679; and lastly by Admiral *Vernon*, in 1739: Of which several Actions we are going to give an Account.

S E C T. II.

The taking of Puerto Bello in 1595, by Sir FRANCIS DRAKE'S Fleet; and after that in 1601, by Capt. PARKER.

Sir Francis Drake's *Last Voyage*. IN 1595, Sir *Francis Drake*, in Conjunction with Sir *John Hawkins* set sail from *Plymouth* the 28th of *August*, with six Men of War, and twenty - one other Ships and Barks, containing two thousand five-hundred Men and Boys. *November* the 12th they came to *Puerto Rico*; but miscarrying in their Attempt (as we intend to give an Account in a subsequent Work,) they departed the 16th; and passing over to the Coast of *Tierra Firma*, took and burned *Rio de la Hacha*, *Rancheria* (where is the Pearl-Fishery) *Santa Marta* and *Nombre de Dios*, a second Time. In these Places they got rich Plunder. The 5th of *January* they crossed over in five Days to the Island *Escudo*, near the Mouth of the River *Nicorago*, [*Nicaragua*,] here they stayed till the 23d, when returning Eastward the 28th, they fell in with *Puerto Bello*. THE

THE same Morning died Sir *Francis Drake* His Death. of a Flux, near the Island, called from thence *Drake's Island*, at the Point of the Peninsula, turning towards the Harbour. His Death was supposed to be much hastened by the ill Success of this Voyage. His Body having been put into a Leaden Coffin, was let down into the Sea; the Trumpets sounding, and Cannons firing all the Time.

HERE the *English* found the beginning of State of a strong Platform, with three Brass Pieces un- Puerto mounted. The Fleet stayed till the 8th of *February*, Bello then: took in Ballast and Water, mended their Sails, and calked the Ships that wanted it. By this Account taken from the early Relations, collected by *Hakluyt* and *Purchas*, it is evident that *Drake* did not enter the Harbour of *Puerto Bello*; nor does it appear that the *English* did any Damage to the Place this Time: Yet it is commonly asserted that Sir *Francis* took *Puerto Bello*, and *Olfert Dapper*, a *Dutch* Author, or his Translator *Ogilby*, in his Description of *America*, tells us, that this brave Admiral ' having burned *Nombre de Dios*, ran in-
' to the Haven of *Porto Bello*, where he found ten
' Houses, besides the Governor's Palace, and a
' Castle, the Breast-works whereof had newly
' been layed of Timber, Stone, and Earth; and
' that they were all demolished by the *English*.
' After which the *Spaniards* fortified the Harbour
' with two strong Castles: But that in 1601, the
' Town was surprized by Capt. *Parker*," whose
Adventure we shall next relate from his own printed Account of it.

CAPT. *William Parker*, of *Plymouth*, set out Capt. Parker's Expedition. from thence in November 1601, with two Ships only, one of a hundred Ton, and three-hundred
Men,

He takes
Cubagua.

Men, in which he went himself as Admiral; the other of sixty Ton, with sixty Men, besides a Pinnace of twenty Ton and eighteen Men, and two Shallops. Crossing over to *Tierra Firme*, he arrived first at the Island of *Margarita*, and then sailed to the *Rancheria*, or *Pearl-Fishery*, in the small Island of *Cubagua*, a little to the South West, where he landed; and after a smart Fight with the Governor of *Cumana*, who was there with a Company of Soldiers, he took the Place, together with thirteen Periaguas or Canows, and several of the Enemy Prisoners, which he ransomed for five-hundred Pounds in Pearls.

PROCEEDING on his Voyage at Cape de *la Vela*, he took a *Portuguese* Vessel of two-hundred and fifty Tons, going to *Cartagena* with three-hundred and seventy Negros: For whose ransom the Captain payed him five-hundred Pounds. Afterwards sailing Westward, and not able to double the Isles, *Las Cabezas*, he was driven far Southward, into the *Gulf of Aclé*, called by the *Spaniards*, *Eusenada de Aclé*. A while after he stood Westward, and putting into those Isles, embarked a hundred and fifty Men in two Pinnaces, and two Shallops, and sailed to the Islands de *Bastimentos* (which were peopled and very fruitful,) where taking six or seven *Negros* for Guides, he presently entered the Mouth of the River of *Puerto Bello* the 7th of *February*, about Two o'Clock in the Morning, the Moon shining very bright.

Enters
Puerto
Bello Har-
bour in the
Night.

AT their Entrance into the Harbour (where it is very deep, as well as far within) being hailed by the strong and stately Castle of *Saint Philip* (which was defended by thirty-five great Pieces of Brass Ordnance and fifty Soldiers,) they were answered by some on board, who spoke *Spanish*, from *Cartagena*.
Then

Then they were commanded to Anchor, which they did : But an Hour after, the Captain with his two Shallops, and about thirty of his Men, set forward up the River [or Harbour]. At the same Time, some from the smaller Fort *San Jago*, (which stood directly opposite to the great Castle) ran along the Shore, crying out to stay : But the Captain not regarding their Orders, proceeded, and landing at the first Town, [or Part of the Town,] called *Triana*, set it on Fire. Then marching over a little Brook into the great and rich Town of *Puerto Bello*, went directly to the King's Treasure-house, which was very large and fair ; where they found two-hundred and fifty Soldiers, and another Company of the Inhabitants, with two Field-Pieces, which they presently took, and set fiercely upon the Soldiers. On which Alarm, Capt. *Fugars*, and *Lawriman* came up with the Pinnaces and a hundred and twenty Men to their Assistance.

At their first coming before the Treasure-house, Capt. *Giles* and Lieut. *Barnet* were wounded ; and *Pedro Melendes*, the Governor of the Town, was advancing to a certain Bridge with sixty Soldiers to encounter Capt. *Parker*, who had not then above eight or ten Men with him : But being shot through his Target, and both his Arms at the first Shot, and the Field-Corporal hurt with the second, they all retired into the House, where they held out till it was almost Day : But Capt. *Ward*, being sent against them with some Soldiers, entered the House, and after killing several of the Men, and wounding *Melendes* in eight Places more, at length took him Prisoner, and became Master of the House, tho' not without Damage ; some of his Men being hurt, and himself shot thro' both his Thighs in entering.

*Burns
Triana.*

*The Treas-
ury forced.*

*The Gover-
nor taken
Prisoner.*

M

T H E R E

Puerto
Bello *plun-*
dered.

THERE were, however, in the House, many Soldiers who would not submit, but still held out against *Giles* and *Barnet*; who in the End slew many of them, and wounded several others, taking the King's *Scrivano* Prisoner. The Fight, which lasted four or five Hours, being ended, and the chief Persons of the Town made Prisoners, (except the *Alcalde*, who fled out of the Town with a Gold Chain about his Neck,) Capt. *Parker* gave the Spoil of the Town, which amounted to no small Value in Money, Plate, and Merchandize, to his Soldiers; reserving only to himself nine or ten-thousand Ducats found in the King's House; which was nothing in comparison of what they expected, considering that *Porto Bello* at one Time of the Year is the Depository of all the Treasures of *Peru* and *Chili*, amounting at least to five or six Millions of Ducats. And had I come but seven Days sooner (says the Captain himself) I had taken here a hundred and twenty-thousand Ducats, which were newly laden in two Frigats for *Cartagena*. This done, he disposed his Guards in different Parts of the Town for keeping Possession all that Day; and at the end of the Streets leading to *Panamá*, which were full of Artificers, they made a *Barricado*; where Capt. *Giles*, who was posted with another *Corps du Guard*, was often attacked by the Enemy, though they were always repulsed with Loss.

The Gover-
nor releas-
ed without
Ransom.

IN consideration of the brave Resistance made by *Pedro Melendes*, the chief Governor, the Captain not only ordered his Surgeon to dress his Wounds, but released him without Ransom: wherein he treated him far more generously than his great Uncle *Pedro Melendes* had treated *John Ribault*, *Landouiere* and the French in *Florida*, of whom

whom he cruelly murdered all that fell into his Hands. He likewise abstained from burning the Town, on this Consideration, that the Advantage he should have reaped thereby would have been very small in comparison of the Damages that would have accrued to the King of Spain and the Inhabitants. All the Hurt he did that Way was to burn some Out-houses (where the Negros dwelt) to amaze and frighten them. He carried off two Frigats which were far up within the River, [or Harbour,] one of them had three Guns, which he employed against the Enemy marching against him from the Western Fort.

The Town not burnt, and why.

Porto Bello was a beautiful Town newly built in ten Degrees of Latitude. It had two goodly Churches quite finished, and six or seven fair Streets, filled with Merchants and Artificers of all Sorts: It was defended by three small Forts on the Town's-side, * besides the great Fort of *Saint Philip* on the other †. At the beginning of the Night Capt. *Parker* embarked his Men and set Sail; but in going out was shot in at the Elbow and out at the Wrist with a Musket-Ball from the Western-Shore, whereof many went over the Vessel, besides twenty-eight great Shot from the Chief and Eastern Fort, which put them often in Danger. However, they escaped, tho' the Enemy seemed confident of sinking them in their Passage back. Being gotten out of the Harbour, they rode behind a small Island §, which lay between them and the Westernmost Fort of *Saint Jago*, un-

Captain Parker wounded in his Retreat

M 2

til

* I suppose it should be on the Side of the Harbour which the Town was of.

† Standing where the *Iron-Castle* lately stood.

§ This was doubtless the Island of *Buena Aventura*.

til Capt. *Rawlins*, the Vice-Admiral, brought thither two Ships which rode somewhat to the Eastward of the Castle of *Saint Philip*, (under the Rock where Sir *Francis Drake's* Coffin was thrown over-board,) all the while that the rest were busied in taking and plundering the Town. Here the whole Fleet being assembled, the King's *Scrivano* and the rest of the Prisoners were set on Shore, and suffered to depart without any Ransom.

Leaves
Puerto
Bello, and
returns to
England.

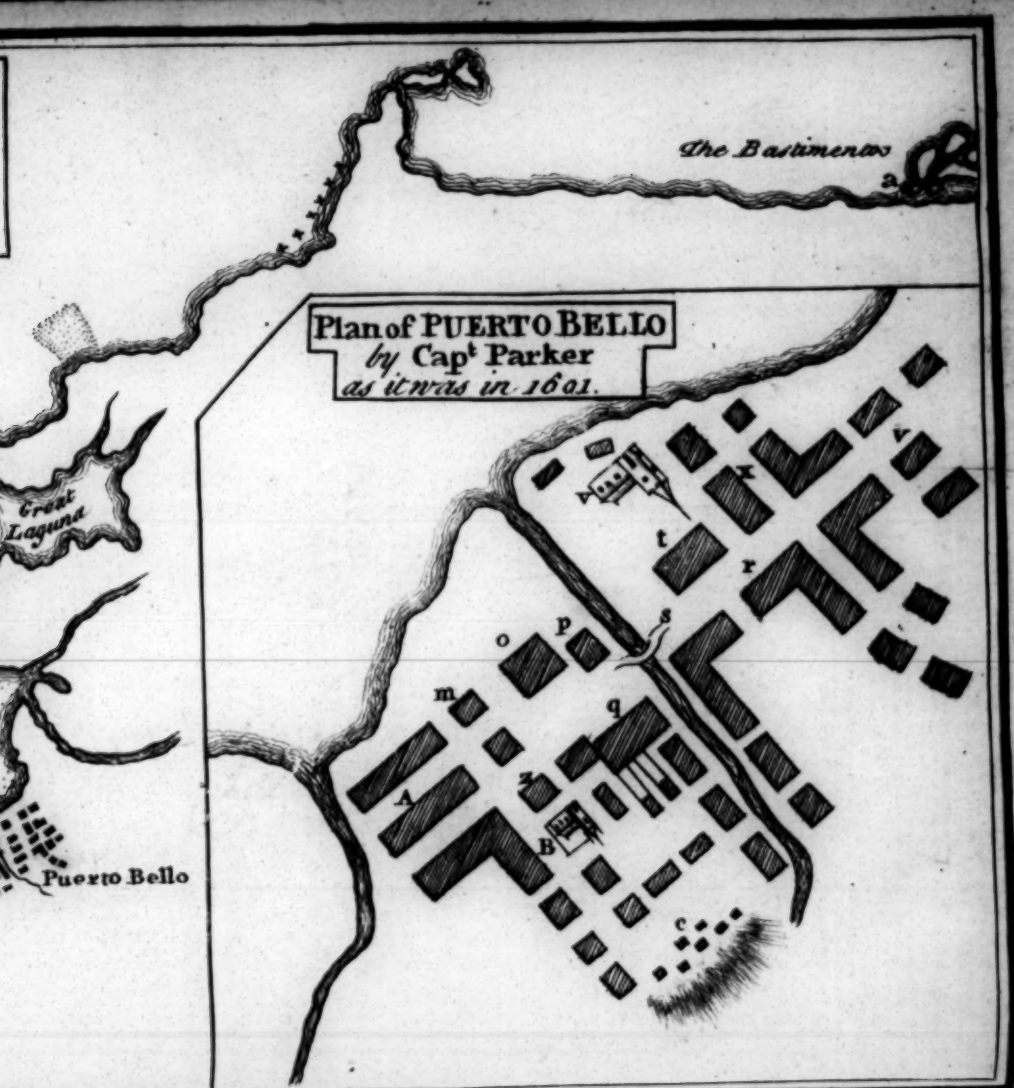
NEXT Day, the 9th of *February*, they sailed back again towards *Cartagena*, and putting into a good Bay, called *Sambo*, twelve Leagues to the Eastward thereof, took in Water, and stayed there twelve or fourteen Days; in which Time they took certain Frigats bound for that City; whereupon the Governor, *Don Pedro de Coronna*, sent out two Gallies, a Brigantine, and two or three Frigats to attack them: But they did not think proper to do it. When he heard Capt. *Parker* had taken *Porto Bello*, which is one of the chief Places in the *West-Indies*, with so small a Force, he pulled his Beard, and swore he would give a Mule-Load of Silver to have but a Sight of him and his Company. From the Bay of *Sambo*, they passed over to *Jamaica*, and thence sailing thro' the *Gulf of Bahama*, came to the *Azores*, where leaving his Vice-Admiral and two Pinnaces to take some farther Prizes, Capt. *Parker* went on for *Plymouth*, where he arrived the 6th of *May* 1602.*

A

* Captain *Parker*, besides the Relation of his Voyage, publish'd a Plan of the Town and Harbour of *Puerto Bello*, with the adjacent Coasts, explaining the whole Action. In the annexed Cut the Town is represented according to his own Draught; but the rest being a sort of Perspective View which makes the Harbour look more like a River (as he calls it himself) than what it is, we have substituted a more correct Plan in its Place.

Plan of
PUERTO BELLO Harbour
and the adjacent Coasts
Adapted to
Cap^t. Parker's account





Explanation of the preceding Plan.

- a **T**HE Bastimentos [about 6 Leagues from Puerto Bello] between which and the Shore Captain Parker sailed with his Vessels in the Night. The Passage is very dangerous by reason of the many Shoals.
- b An Island called Cagathoe [or Cagada.]
- c The Place where the Ships rode: There Sir Francis Drake's Coffin was thrown overboard. [Hence it is called Drake's Island.]
- d The Eastermost Fort, called St. Philip's, with 35 Pieces of Brass Ordnance and 50 Soldiers, who have a Lodging near it.
- e The Place where he anchored when the Fort bailed him.
- f A House built on a Frigat, and a small Bay hard by.
- g The Westermost Fort, called St. Diago's [or Jago's] with 30 Soldiers and 5 Canon, 4 of which were carry'd over to the great Fort. They were bringing the 5th towards the Town to play against the English as they passed to and from their Boats: but Parker sent Captain Gyles, who took it from them with the loss of one Man only.
- h Another Fort or Platform, wherein were no Ordnance.
- i A Town called Triana, where the Captain landed with his two Shallops, having with him but 28 or 30 Men, with whom he marched to the great Town after causing Triana to be burnt.
- k A Fort which they were then building on a Hill, with a River close by it; which coming from the the Mountains falls into the great River [or Harbour]

A DESCRIPTION

Harbour] this Fort will command both the Town and River [as did Gloria Castle which stood in the same Place.]

l The Key where the two Pinnaces landed the rest of the Men at the great Town, an Hour after the Captain landed.

m A great Storehouse (with Dwellings in it) full of large Timber for building Ships.

n The Place where two Friggats rode, which were taken: one of them had three Guns, which they turned upon the Enemy marching against them from the Western Fort.

o The King's House; where were two Pieces of Brass mounted on Field Carriages, and 253 Soldiers belonging to the House and Town; besides a Company of Town's-Men, who usually keep their Court of Guard in the King's House, which is full of Treasure when the Galleons arrive, but at no other time else. Here Lieutenant Barnet was shot on the Side of his Head and through his Ear, and Captain Gyles, coming to second him was shot over the Breast and through his Arm.

p The Market Place or Court of Guard.

q Certain very handsome Houses, where dwelt the Serjeant Major, with other Chief Commanders. Here the English kept their Court of Guard.

r A Row of Houses where divers Merchants dwelt.

s The Bridge, with a great River running under it, which descends from the Mountains and falls into the River [or Harbour.]

t The Alcaye's House or Prison, who fled with a fair Gold Chain about his Neck.

v Saint Mary's Church.

x The

- x *The Street where Pedro Melendus [Pedro Melendes] advanced with 60 Soldiers against Captain Parker who had but 8 or 9 with him.*
- y *The Way leading to Pennemau [or Panama] full of Artificers; which was barrocaded and defended by Gyles.*
- z *The House where Pedro Melendus dwelt.*
- A *A Street full of all sorts of Artificers; with two others Streets or Ways leading to the Westernmost Forts.*
- B *Another Church and Street of Artificers.*
- C *The Out-Houses of the Negroes, which were burned.*
- D *The Place [Being the Island of Buena Aventura] where Captain Parker, after quitting Puerto Bello, rode with the Frigats, Pinnaces and Shallops, till Captain Rawlins joined him with two Ships from the other Island, [or Drake's Island.]*

SECT.

S E C T. III.

The taking of Puerto Bello by Capt. MORGAN, (afterwards Sir HENRY, and Deputy-Governor of Jamaica) in 1669.

Captain Morgan sets sail without disclosing his Design.

CAPT. Morgan set out from *Jamaica* with a Fleet of nine Sail of Ships and great Boats, which carried four-hundred and sixty *Bucaniers*. He kept his Design a Secret from every Body at first, only telling them on several Occasions that he did not question to make a good Fortune by the Voyage, if his Undertaking was not crossed by some unexpected Accidents. But as soon as they arrived on the Coast of *Costa Rica*, he declared his Intention to the Captains, and presently after to all the rest of the Company, which was, to surprize *Puerto Bello* by Night, and plunder it effectually; a Thing, (he sayed) he was the more sure of succeeding in, as by concealing his Design till then, the *Spaniards* could have no Notice of his coming. However, some did not like the Proposal, alledging that they had not sufficient Force to attack so strong and large a Town. But Capt. Morgan reply'd, *If our Number is but small our Hearts are great; and the fewer Persons we are, the more Union there will be amongst us, and the better Shares we shall have in the Spoil.* This with the Hopes of obtaining Riches, in case they succeeded, made them unanimously agree to prosecute the Design.

Strength of Puerto Bello.

Puerto Bello was then reckoned the strongest Place possessed by the *Spaniards* in the *West-Indies*.
The

The Port was defended at the Entrance by two almost impregnable Castles, called *San Felipe* and *San Jago*, so that no Ship nor Boat could pass without Permission. The Garrison consisted of three hundred Soldiers, and the Town was inhabited by four hundred Families.

CAPT. Morgan, who was very well acquainted with all the Avenues of this Town, and the neighbouring Coasts, arrived in the dusk of the Evening at *Puerto de Naos*, or the *Port of Ships*, ten Leagues to the West of *Puerto Bello*; from whence they sailed to another Harbour, called *Puerto Ponton*, * or the *Port of pontoons*: Here leaving a few Men to keep the Ships, and conduct them next Day into *Puerto Bello* Harbour, they put themselves into Boats and Canows, with which, arriving about Midnight at a Place called *Estero luengo lemos*, they all landed and marched to the first Fort of the Town, guided by an *Englishman*, who had been formerly a Prisoner in those Parts. He and two or three more were sent to bring off the Century, if possible; and if they could not, to kill him: But they executed their Commission so dextrously, that they seized him before he had Time to give Warning with his Musket or otherwise, and brought him with his Hands bound to the Captain, who asked him, *How Things went in the City? What Forces they had*, and the like; threatening at every Question to kill him, in case he did not declare the Truth.

N

HAVING

* Called *Puerto Pontin*, in the History of the *Bucaniers*, where ('tis sayed) the Fleet sailed up the River, from *Puerto de Naos* to this Place: which must be a grievous Mistake, either of the Author or Translator.

A DESCRIPTION

*Take the
Castle of
St. Jago.*

HAVING marched about Three-quarters of a Mile farther, they came to the first Castle, which presently they surrounded so closely, that none could either get in or out. Then Capt. *Morgan* commanded the Centry to summon those within to surrender at Discretion, and to assure them, that otherwise, they were to expect no Quarter. But despising these Threats, the Garrison began immediately to fire, which alarmed the City. However, tho' they made as strong Resistance as could be, they were constrained to surrender to the Pyrates; who to be as good as their Words, and strike Terror into the rest, having shut up all the Soldiers and Officers in one Room, set fire to the Powder, of which they found a great Quantity, and blew them up with the whole Castle into the Air.

*Attack
that of San
Miguel.*

THIS done, they began to fall on the City, which as yet was not in a Condition to receive them. Many of the Inhabitants cast their Money and Jewels into Wells and Cisterns, or hid them in other Places under Ground, in order to save what they could; while a Party of the Pyrates was detached to the Cloisters to fetch off all the Religious of both Sexes they could find. The Governor of the Town, unable to rally the Citizens thro' the great Confusion they were in, retired to one of the other Castles, and from thence began to fire incessantly on the Enemy, who were no less diligent to defend themselves and assault him. It was observable, that amidst the Horrors of the Attack, they made very few shot in vain; for aiming with great Dexterity at the Mouths of the Guns, the *Spaniards* were sure to lose one or two Men at each, every Time they charged.

THE

THE Fire was very furious on both Sides, from Break of Day till Noon, at which Time it was still very doubtful who should be Victors. At last, the Pyrates perceiving they had lost many Men, and yet advanced but little towards gaining either this or the remaining Castles, endeavoured with their Hand-Granados to burn the Gates of it: But the *Spaniards* throwing great Quantities of Stones from the Walls, with Earthern-Pots full of Powder, and other combustible Matter, forced them to desist from that Attempt. Capt. *Morgan* seeing this generous Defence that was made, began to despair of Success: Hereupon, many faint and calm Meditations came into his Mind; neither could he determine which Way to turn himself in the Straits he was in. But while he stood in doubt whether to proceed or retreat, his Spirits were of a sudden revived, by seeing the *English* Colours put forth at one of the lesser Castles, then entered by his Men; a Troop of whom came to meet him with Shouts of Victory. This encouraged him not only to continue the Assault of the Castle he was then beleaguering, but to resolve on forcing the rest; especially as the principal Citizens had fled thither with the best of their Effects, and all the Plate belonging to the Churches.

*almost dis-
pairs of
Success.*

ACCORDINGLY he ordered ten or twelve Ladders to be made in haste, broad enough for four or five to mount in a-breast. Which being finished, he commanded the Monks and Nuns (who had been seized) to fix them against the Walls of the Castle; imagining that the Governor, out of Reverence or Compassion, would slacken his Fire when he saw them exposed in the Front of the Enemy, tho' he had before-hand assured the Captain such a Proceeding

*Scale the
Walls.*

A DESCRIPTION

ceeding should not make him neglect his Duty, and so it proved; for the Governor like a brave and faithful Officer continued to make a vigorous Resistance, without regarding the Cries and Intreaties of the Religious (who were compelled to this hard Service) or the Slaughter that was made *and take it among them by the Cannon of the Castle. At last* by *Affault.* the Ladders being fixt, the Pyrates mounted them couragiously in great Numbers, having in their Hands Granados and Earthern Pots full of Powder, which they set fire to as soon as they were upon the Walls, and threw among the *Spaniards*; who no longer able to withstand the Shock gave Way, and the *English* entered the Castle. Hereupon the Garrison all threw down their Arms and begged Quarter, except the Governor, who would not give nor take it, but killed several of his own Soldiers, because they did not stand to their Arms. And though the Pyrates often offer'd him Quarter, he refused it, saying, *By no Means: I had rather die as a valiant Soldier, than be hanged as a Coward.* Nay, even the Cries and Tears of his own Wife and Daughter, who on their Knees begged him to accept of Quarter, could not move him. Notwithstanding all this, the Pyrates endeavoured, at the Expense of several of their own Lives, to take him Prisoner: But he defended himself so obstinately, that they were forced at last to kill him, wherein he fulfilled the Promise made to Capt. *Morgan* on his first Summons, *That he would never surrender alive.* *Pere le Pers*, * observes in the History of *San Domingo*, already

*Bravery
of the Go-
vernor.*

* This Author, says Capt. *Morgan*, took both the Castles of *San Jago* and *San Felipe*; And so he must have done, in case he took all the Castles, as, 'tis sayed before, he resolved to

already mentioned, that on this Occasion there was made the greatest Resistance that had been known for a long Time before among the *Spaniards* in *America*.

WHEN the Pyrates had gotten Possession of the Castle, which was about Night, they inclosed therein all those whom they had taken Prisoners. The Women and Men were put by themselves with some Guards over them : All the Wounded likewise were thrust into an Apartment, where they were left without the least Care taken of them. After this they fell to their usual Debaucheries of eating and drinking, ravishing Virgins and married Women, to such Excess, that fifty courageous Men only might easily have retaken the City, and killed them all. Next Day, having plundered the Town of whatever they could find in it, they began to examine some of the Prisoners. These having been persuaded by others to say, that they were the wealthiest Persons in all the Town, found the ill Consequences of putting such a Fallacy on the *Bucaniers* when it was too late : For being questioned to discover where they had hidden their Riches, it was in vain to change their Note, and declare they were not the Persons they pretended to be : The Pyrates, concluding this to be only the effect of Obstinacy, put them to the

Excesses of the Pyrats.

They plunder the Town, and torture the Inhabitants.

to do : Nor could they well have brought their Ships into the Harbour (as they must have done to load their Goods) unless *San Felipe* (which stood where the *Iron-Castle* was situate) had been taken. The taking of this Fort must have been as remarkable an Action, as that of either of the two other Castles, whose Attack is described : But this Expedition is very imperfectly, if not incorrectly, related in the History of the *Bucaniers*, where neither the Name nor Situation of any of the Castles that were taken is, mentioned, no more than the Circumstance related in *Waser's Account*, p. 72.

A DESCRIPTION

the Torture, which they inflicted with such Rigour, that many of them died upon the Rack, or soon after they were released from it.

The President of Panamá advances against them,

Don Juan Perez de Gusman, the President of Panamá being informed of what had happened to *Puerto Bello*, gathered Forces with all Diligence to recover it. On the other hand, the Pyrates having been here fifteen Days prepared for their Departure. They first victualled their Ships well, and then put their Pillage on Board. In the mean Time, Capt. *Morgan* demanded of the Prisoners a hundred-thousand Pieces of Eight to be raised forthwith, threatening otherwise to burn the Town, and blow up the rest of the Castles. To effect this, two Persons were sent to the President of Panamá, who having now a Body of fifteen-hundred Men in Readiness, set forward immediately to encounter the Pyrates before their Retreat. But these People, tho' they had lost many of their Companions more by the unhealthy Air and their own Debaucheries, than by the Arms of the Spaniards, instead of flying away, went out to meet him at a narrow Passage, through which he was of necessity to pass in his Way to the Town. Here they placed a hundred Men well armed, who defeated a good Party of the President's Forces at the first Onset. This obliged *Don Juan* to retire for that Time, as not being strong enough to proceed any farther : however, he sent to tell Capt. *Morgan*, That in case he and his Men did not quit *Puerto Bello* without Delay, they were to expect no Quarter from him, when he should take them Prisoners, as he hoped soon to do. The Captain, who feared not his Threats, knowing he had a secure Retreat in his Ships which were nigh at hand, made Answer, That he would not depart before he had re-

but retreats with an idle Threat.

ceived

ceived the full Sum demanded; and that in case it was not payed immediately, he would demolish the Castles, kill the Prisoners, and reduce the Town to Ashes.

THE Governor of Panamá, perceiving no Good was to be done with the Pyrates, determined to leave them, and those he came to relieve, to make the best Agreement they could: However, being perfectly astonished to think, that four-hundred Men without Cannon had been able to take so great a City, and so many strong Castles, (especially as the Inhabitants were always reckoned good Soldiers, and never wanted Courage in their own Defence,) he sent to desire Capt. Morgan to send him a Sample of those Arms wherewith he had performed such great Exploits. The Captain, after treating the Messenger with much Civility, delivered him a Pistol * and a few Bullets, saying, Tell your Master, that I desire him to accept this small Sample of Arms wherewith I have taken Puerto Bello, and keep them for a Twelve-Month; at the end of which, I promise to fetch them away. Don Juan soon returned the Present, giving him Thanks for the Favour of lending him such Weapons as he did not want; he likewise sent him a Gold Ring, † and advised him not to give himself the Trouble of coming to Panamá, as he had done to Puerto Bello; assuring him he should not speed so well there as he had done

* *Pere le Pers* says, it was a French *Bucanier*, which is a Fusée with a Barrel four Foot and a half long, carrying a Ball of an Ounce Weight; and that *Morgan* sent the President Word, That in a little Time he would go and teach him the Use which the *Bucaniers* made of such Arms.

† The same Author says; it was set with a fair Emerald.

A DESCRIPTION

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Is astonished at their Boldness,

and sends a Present to Captain Morgan.

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A DESCRIPTION

done here*. In which, however, the President was greatly mistaken, as will be shewn in another Place.

*The Town
ransomed.*

BUT to return to *Puerto Bello*. In a few Days the miserable Inhabitants brought the intire Sum they were fined in; and Capt. *Morgan*, having carried off the best Guns out of the Castles and nailed the rest, set sail with all his Ships. In a little Time they arrived at the Island of *Cuba*, where coming to divide the Spoil, they found in ready Money two hundred and fifty thousand Pieces of Eight, besides Merchandizes, as Cloth, Linnen, Silks, &c. † Hence they departed for *Jamaica*, their common Place of Rendezvous, where they fell as usual to their vicious and debauched Course of Life, spending with huge Prodigality in a short Space, what they had been long acquiring, with so much Fatigue and Danger.

I SHALL not stay here to examine whether Capt. *Morgan* acted by Commission from the Governor of *Jamaica*, and consequently, whether he and his Men are to be deemed Pyrates; or whether they committed the Cruelties with which they are charged in *The History of the Bucaniers*, from whence chiefly the foregoing Account is extracted. This, however, we may do on another Occasion, when we shall relate what has been al-
ledged

* According to *Pere le Pers*, all the Answer the President made was, That it was Pity such brave Men had not been engaged in a just War.

† The same Author says, that they had in Gold and Silver, both coined and wrought, and in Jewels which were not valued at a fourth Part of their real Worth, two hundred and sixty thousand Crowns; without reckoning the Merchandizes, which they esteemed very little.

ledged in the Captain's Vindication by his Friends, who accuse the *Dutch* Author of that History with misrepresenting Things to make the *English* appear as barbarous as his own Nation.

S E C T. IV.

The surprizing and plundering of Puerto Bello in 1678-9, by Capt. CROXEN, LA SOUND, and other Privateers.

THE Fleet consisted of five Ships, with upwards of three-hundred Men on board, whereof the Captains were *Croxen*, or *Coxen*, who had the chief Command, *Effex*, *Allison*, *Rose* and *Sharp*. They had a Commission from the Governor of *Jamaica* to cruize for three Months only. It cost them no more than ten Ducats, or Pieces of Eights: But by the help of a little Forgery (common on those Occasions with the *Buccaniers*) they made shift to enlarge the Time to three Years; being resolved to take this Opportunity to try their Fortunes.

The Expedition of Croxen and La Sound.

SETTING Sail from *Port-Royal*, they crossed over to the Islands *de los Pinos*, not far from the Coast of *Cartagena*, where they victualled their Ships, and then steered for the Island of *Fuerte*, or *Forto*. About the Middle of the Islands of *San Blas* (commonly called *Samballoe*, or *Zamballos*) they met with a *French* Man of War of eight Guns, commanded by *La Sound*.

HAVING ranged up and down the Island for some time to no Purpose, they at last resolved to attack *Puerto Bello*, in hopes of meeting with as

O

rich

A DESCRIPTION

*They land
at Port
Scrivan.*

rich Plunder as Sir *Henry Morgan* had done. To this Effect, leaving their Ships at some of the Islands, they put two-hundred of their Men in fourteen or fifteen Canows, and landed on the West-side of Port *Scrivan*, sixteen or seventeen Leagues to the East of *Puerto Bello*. They had by this Means a very tedious and wearisome March; but they chose to land at a distance from the Town, rather than at the *Bastimentos*, or any near Place, that they might avoid being discovered by the Scouts, which the *Spaniards* always keep in their Neighbourhood, and by that Means surprize them. The better also to conceal their Passage, they travelled in the Night, hiding themselves by Day in the Woods. They were three Nights thus in their Journey along the Coast, and escaped being seen by any till they came within an Hour's March of *Puerto Bello*, when they were spy'd by a *Negro*, who ran as fast as he could to give Intelligence of their coming: But perceiving themselves discovered, they made such haste after him, that they got into the Place before he could raise the Inhabitants, or a sufficient Body of them could be formed to oppose them.

*They sur-
prize the
Town.*

THUS the *Bucaniers* possessed themselves of the Town without any considerable Loss; and plundered all they could find in the Houses and elsewhere. Having dispatched their Business in two Days Time, they departed for fear the *Spaniards* should rally, or pour in the Country upon them, and so intercept their Retreat, their Number being so small. But before they came away, they divided the Booty they had taken, which amounted to about forty Pounds a Man (including those who were left to guard the Ships,) besides what extraordinary Shares were drawn by their Officers, the Owners of the Vessels, Carpenters,

ters, Surgeons, and those who lost any Limbs, or were killed in the Expedition, according to the customary Laws of the *Bucaniers*.

S E C T. V.

The taking of Puerto Bello in 1739, by Vice Admiral Vernon, with six Ships only.

THE Convention signed at the *Pardo* the 14th of Jan. 1739. between Great Britain and Spain, having been luckily broken by the *Spaniards* refusing to pay the Sum stipulated for indemnifying our Merchants, whereby a War seemed inevitable at last, after twenty Years fruitless Negotiations, it was thought fit to send a Fleet, in time, to the *West Indies* to secure our Trade and Plantations there. Accordingly, the 20th of July, nine Men of War and a Sloop set sail under the Command of *Edward Vernon*, Esq; who was pitched on as the most proper Person in the Nation to perform that Service.

Admiral Vernon chosen for the West India Service.

On this Occasion Mr. *Vernon* was sent for from his Country Seat to Court, and from the Post of Captain of a Man of War was, by the King, advanced to that of Vice-Admiral of the *Blue*. It is said he declined to go on this Expedition, unless he was made a Flag Officer; not that he was backward to serve his Country, or prefer'd his private Interest to the Nation's Glory, but because otherwise he knew he should not be able to serve it so effectually as he proposed, and get the Designs he had in View carried into Execution; neither could he effect the same in the

A DESCRIPTION

Capacity of Admiral, unless he had an extensive Commission for acting, which 'tis said he also obtained.

*The Occa-
sion of send-
ing him
thither.*

His being sent on this Service, took its Rise from a Declaration he had made in the last Parliament, whereof he was a Member. Some Debates arising therein about the Difficulty of annoying the *Spaniards* in the *West-Indies*, and some Member having affirmed that *Puerto Bello* (which happened to be mentioned as a Place proper to be attacked) could not be taken with fewer than 50 or 60 Men of War, 'tis reported Mr. *Vernon* rose up, and said, *He would forfeit his Life, if he did not take it with six Ships only.* On this Account he was recommended to the King, as the fittest Person for the Service, by the Minister; though 'tis commonly thought Sir *Ch—s W—r* proposed him, and many give to Sir *J—n N—s* the Honour of this Advice; which might have been of the utmost importance to the Nation, had this honest Admiral been seasonably and effectually supplied with Forces: but as he has been now almost a whole Year, and not a Man sent to him, it is generally imagined that he will fall a Sacrifice to *Spanish* Malice.

*He sets out
for Puerto
Bello.*

However that be (which the Event will shew) the brave Admiral not finding Forces sent him as he expected, yet unwilling to lie idle, and determining to perform his Promise at least, applied for Assistance to the Governour of *Jamaica*; who from a Principle of national Generosity, which must recommend him to all the Well-Wishers of *Britain*, lent him 240 Land Forces, which were all that could possibly be spared. Being thus reinforced the Admiral set sail from *Port Royal* the 5th of *November* follow-
ing

ing with seven Men of War, the *Burford* 70 Guns and 500 Men, *Thomas Watson* Captain under the Admiral; the *Hampton Court*, 70 Guns, *His Forces*. 495 Men, *Digby Dent* Captain, under Commodore *Charles Brown*; the *Princess Louisa*, 60 Guns, and 400 Men, *Thomas Waterhouse* Captain; the *Strafford*, 60 Guns and 400 Men, *Thomas Trevor* Captain; the *Worcester*, 60 Guns, and 400 Men, *Perry Main* Captain; the *Norwich*, 50 Guns, and 300 Men, *Richard Herbert* Captain; and the *Sheerness*: which last the Admiral order'd, in his Passage, to cruize off *Cartagena*, disdaining to appear before *Puerto Bello* with one Ship more than he had engaged to take it with.

The Fleet, having been delayed in the Passage by contrary Winds, did not come in Sight of the Harbour till the 20th. On their first discovering the Coast they saw three Sail of *Spanish* Ships, two *Guarda Costas* of Twenty Guns each, and the third a *Snow* of Fourteen Guns, to which they gave Chace: but the Enemy made the best of their Way into *Puerto Bello*, and got under the Canon of the Forts, where they imagined themselves safe, not thinking the *English* dared to attack the Place. The Squadron follow'd them till Evening; but there being but little Wind, though a very great Swell, the Admiral anchor'd, for that Night, Six Leagues off the Shore, being apprehensive of driving to the Eastward of the Port. On the 21st the Admiral stood in towards the Harbour, at Break of Day, in Line of Battle, having first directed the Manner of the Attack. They were now distinctly in View from the Place; but the *Spaniards* were so secure in the imagined Strength of their Port, that they hoisted up the Flag of Defiance on the

*Comes in
Sight of
the Har-
bour.*

*enters it
with his
Ships.*

A DESCRIPTION

the *Iron Castle*, towards which the Squadron advanced, piloted by *James Rentone*, Captain of of a Merchant Ship ; and (as they owned themselves afterwards) wished earnestly, that the Fleet would attempt to enter, as believing they could have sunk them all immediately. But their Fear was that the *English* were only making a second *Bastimentos* Expedition, and would not give them the Pleasure of engaging them. In short, they could not believe that the Fleet would venture in ; but when they saw them double the Point, they began to alter their Opinion, and conclude them in earnest.

The Hampton Court begins the Attack on the Iron Castle.

Hereupon the Ordnance began to play upon the Ships (still at a great Distance) very briskly from the *Iron Fort*, to which only the Admiral was obliged to confine his Attack, because the Wind proved Easterly : but the *Hampton Court*, which led in, without regarding their Fire, made directly opposite to the Castle ; and as the Wind had died away, she dropped her Anchor before it, receiving a very brisk Fire from the *Spaniards*, at the Distance of little more than a Cable's Length, without making one Shot. But she soon convinced them that she was both willing and able to return it, for in about 25 Minutes she shot above 400 Balls against the Castle ; making so quick and uninterrupted a Fire, that the other Ships at a Distance thought her all in a Flame. Nothing was to be seen but Fire and Smoke on both Sides. The *Norwich* then came up, who met with the same Reception ; and altho' she did not fire quite so quick as the *Hampton Court*, yet her Shot was so well aimed as to put the *Spaniards* a good deal off their Metal, they hardly returning her one Shot for three.

In

In 28 Minutes the *Worcester* got up also, which anchoring close by the other two, did no small Execution, knocking down the higher Part of the Castle Wall, and driving many of the *Spaniards* from their Guns; who we may presume, by this time, began to repent of their Forwardness, and to wish the *English* out again at Sea. The Admiral perceiving some *Spaniards* fled from several Parts of the Fort, ordered out the Boats with his third Lieutenant, Mr. *Broderick*, about forty Sailors, and a Company of Marines with their Officers, whom he commanded to land under the Fire of his Guns, in the very Front of the Lower Battery, in order to take the Place by Storm, and made a Signal for two other Ships to follow them, whilst he was advancing to batter it, with the Blue Flag at her Fore-top-mast Head, and the Bloody Flag at the Main-top-mast Head of his Ship. In 20 Minutes after the *Worcester*, he came before the Castle, ordering the Anchor to be dropped within half a Cable's Length of the Castle, to convince them he was not afraid of all they could do. However, the *Spaniards*, notwithstanding they had fir'd very few Guns for some Minutes before, yet, as if they had resolved to summon up all their Courage against the Flag, welcomed the *Burford* with a terrible Volley, which being at so small a Distance, took place with almost every Shot. One struck away the Stern of its Barge; another broke a large Gun upon the Upper Deck; a third went through the Fore-top-mast; and a fourth passing thro' the Arning, within two Inches of the Main-mast, broke down the Barricado of the Quarter-Deck, very near the Admiral, and killed three Men in a Moment, wounding five others, who stood by them. This looked as if the Admiral was to have had bloody Work,

The Admiral exposed to great Danger before the Castle.

*Drives the
Spaniards
from the
Lower
Battery.*

Work, but was far from discouraging his brave Men, (who in every Ship were so zealous, as hardly to be restrained from firing) for the *Burford* return'd the Salute in such a Manner, that altho' they fir'd a Shot now and then, they never did her the least Damage afterwards. She drove them from the Lower Guns the first Broad-side, and by a Spring on her Cable bringing about her Starboard Guns, gave them another in three Minutes, and so on for six or seven Rounds: which made them quite sick of the Affair, and they could be perceived flying for refuge into Ambuscades; choosing rather to venture their Necks by a cowardly Flight, than to stand the Chance of a more glorious End. In short, so many of the Garrison made their Escape, that the Ships which had been chased into the Harbour, not being able to make any Defence themselves, were obliged to send their Men to the Iron Fort to man their Guns. The *Burford* being moored at so small a Distance from the Fort, the Fire of her Small-Arms commanded the Enemy's Lower Batteries, from which they could do most harm; and by this Means the Men were also secured at landing. And this (as the Enemy afterwards confessed) was the principal Occasion of their deserting their Lower Batteries; the small Shot of the former Ships not having reached them, altho' their Cannon had beat down some of the upper Part of the Fort. About 5 a Clock the *Spaniards* were so disabled, and the Works of the Fort so demolished, that their Fire grew very faint.

*Sends Men
to land
under the
Walls of
the Fort.*

As the Boats drew near the Admiral's Ship, he called to them to go directly ashore under the Walls of the Fort, tho' there was no Breach made; but this answered as was expected, by their

their throwing the Enemy into a general Consternation ; the Officers and Men, who had stood to the Lower Battery, flying to the upper Part of the Battery, where they held up a white Flag for Capitulating. The Admiral answered with a white Flag ; but it was some time before he could stop his own Men and those aboard the *Strafford*, who follow'd him, from firing.

In the mean time the Seamen had climbed up the Walls of the Lower Battery, and struck the Colours, and then drew the Soldiers up after them ; to whom the *Spaniards*, who had retired to the upper Part of the Fort, soon after surrendered at Discretion. They all got safe on Shore but two Soldiers, who were killed by the Small-Arms from the Castle. While the Soldiers were parleying to enter, the Sailors had climbed over the Walls at another Place, and hoisted the *English* Flag, which being perceived by the Soldiers, they got on one another's Shoulders over the Breast-works. One Man set himself close under an Embrasure or Port-hole, whilst another climbed upon his Shoulders and entered under the Mouth of a great Gun. This so dismay'd the *Spaniards*, that they threw down their Arms and fled to the top of the Castle ; from whence scaling backwards, they were seen to run into Woods by hundreds, and fly for their Lives.

All the Boats Crews were on the Platform in three Minutes after landing, and struck the *Spanish* Flag of Defiance, hoisting the *English* Colours in its Room. The Capitano and Officers which were in the Castle (whose Number was but five, and thirty-five Men out of above 300, the rest being either killed and wounded or fled) shut themselves up in a strong Lodgment ; but upon

P

Mr.

A DESCRIPTION

Mr. Broderick's firing a Gun or two through the Door, they quickly opened it, and begged Quarter. Thus four *English* Ships, (for the *Louisa* and *Strafford* were not come up) in two Hours, took this *Iron Castle*, which in the Hands of so many *English* Men, might have been defended against all the Naval Force of *Spain*. However, it is agreed by all that the Governor behaved very well, and killed, with his own Hand, several of his Men for running away.

Defence
made by
Gloria
Castle.

The *Gloria* and *Geronimo* Forts kept firing upon the *English* Ships the whole Time of Action, which began about half an Hour after one in the Afternoon; but most of their Shot either fell short or flew over them. At length the Ships that went in before the Admiral having fallen to the Leeward, after they had done their Fire, so as to be out of Sight of the *Gloria Castle*, and the Admiral's Ship lying open to it, they kept firing one of their longest Guns at him till Night: But not being within point-blank, they shot over or under like the former; only one Ball went through the Head of the Fore-top-mast, just above the Rigging, so that it did no harm.

Attacked
by the Ad-
miral's
Ships.

The Admiral, finding they still continued their firing after the Loss of the *Iron-Castle*, tried some of his Lower-Tier at them, which being new succeeded beyond Expectation. In a few Minutes she was so fortunate as to strike down the Flag-staff of *Gloria-Castle*, and carrying it over into the Town, the Ball passed through several of the Houses, and among the rest the Governor's, none of them falling short. They also sunk a Sloop near Fort *Geronimo*.

The Contest lasted till Night put an end to the Engagement. Next Morning the Admiral went

went on board Commodore *Brown*, where it was resolved, in full Council, that as there was no Wind, the Ships should warp up the next Night in order to attack *Gloria-Castle* the Night following, as it would not have been practicable to attempt it in the Day-time. But they were saved this Trouble and Delay by the Enemy's putting up a White Flag presently after at the Castle, and sending a Boat with a Flag of Truce to the Admiral, with the Governor's Adjutant and a Lieutenant of a Man of War, or *Guarda Costa*; who brought the Conditions on which they desired to capitulate, sign'd by Don *Francisco Martinez de Retez*, Governor of *Puerto Bello*, and Don *Francisco de Abaroa*, Commandant of the *Guarda Costas* at the same Place. These Conditions were, That they would deliver up all the Fortifications, provided they might be allowed to march out with the Honours of War; have an Indemnity for themselves, the Town, and the Inhabitants; and be permitted to possess all the Ships in the Harbour. The Admiral was willing to grant all the Articles but the last, for he resolved to have the Ships, being the very Ships which had done the English Merchants all the Injuries complained of in those Coasts. Accordingly, he drew up the Terms of Capitulation, which were to this Effect, " That " the Garrison should be allowed to march out " as desired, on Condition the King of Great Britain's Troops were put into possession of " *Gloria* and *Geronimo* Castles by four a Clock " in the Afternoon; that the Spanish Soldiers " should march out by ten a Clock next Morning, might have a Guard if they thought necessary, and carry off two Cannons mounted, " with ten Charges of Powder, and their Match

Governor
of Puerto
Bello capi-
tulates.

Conditions
granted by
the Admi-
ral.

A DESCRIPTION

“ lighted ; that the Ships with their Apparel
 “ and Arms should be delivered up ; but that
 “ the Officers, Soldiers, and Crew should have
 “ three Days allowed them to return with all their
 “ Personal Effects, and only one *English* Officer
 “ be admitted on board each Ship and Vessel
 “ to take Possession ; that provided the Articles
 “ abovementioned were strictly comply’d with,
 “ the Clergy, Churches and Town should be
 “ protected and preserved in all their Immuni-
 “ ties and all the Prisoners set at Liberty before
 “ he left the Port.

*The Castle
 delivered
 up.*

These Articles, sign’d by the Admiral and Com-
 modore *Brown*, were sent back with the Depu-
 ties to their Principals, who being allowed only
 a few Hours to come to a Resolution, accepted
 the Conditions offered them within the Time li-
 mited ; whereupon the Admiral sent Captain
Newton, who commanded the Detachment of Sol-
 diers from *Jamaica*, before Night, with 120 of
 the said Soldiers, to take possession of *Gloria-Castle*
 and *San Geronimo* Fort.

In *Gloria-Castle* were found 120 Guns,
 200 Small-Arms and Blunderbuffes, as many
 Swords, 200 Barrels of Powder, four large Mor-
 tars, several thousands of Iron and Copper Balls ;
 over and above the Guns and Ammunition in the
 Iron Castle. Of these Guns about 87 were Brass.
 Besides the *Guarda Costas* and the *Snow*, there
 were in the Harbour four good Sloops, a Peri-
 agoa and a half Galley.

They had also the good Luck to find 10,000
 Dollars hidden in a Close-Stool, which the Ad-
 miral generously distributed among the King’s
 Forces for their Encouragement. This Money
 had been sent by the King of *Spain* to pay the
 Garrison

Garrison of *Puerto Bello* ; but by good Luck to the *English* they had not received it. And indeed such cowardly Fellows did not deserve it.

The Crews of the *Guarda Costas*, and other *Spanish* Ships in the Harbour, seeing the regular and bold Attack that was made on the *Iron-Fort* and despairing of being able to defend themselves, fell to plundering the Town the 21st, in the Night, and committed great Outrages on the Inhabitants, who implored the Admiral's Protection against them. I think this villainous Action shews plainly what has long been insisted on by our Merchants, that *Guarda Costas* are no better than Pyrates.

The Admiral was joined at *Puerto Bello*, on the 27th of *November* ; by the *Diamond* Man of War, Captain *Knowles* ; and on the 29th by the *Windsor*, Captain *Berkley*, and the *Anglesea*, Captain *Reddish*, he having left Orders at the *Leeward Islands*, for those Ships to follow him.

The Admiral took on board his Ships from the several Fortresses, 40 Pieces of Cannon, 10 Field Pieces, 4 Mortars, and 18 Patteraroes, all of Brass ; and rendered above 80 Iron Guns unserviceable, by knocking off the Trunnions and spiking them up. He also took on board all their Shot and Ammunition, excepting 122 Barrels of Powder, which he expended in springing Mines, whereby all the Fortifications of the Forts were blown up, and intirely demolished, and the Harbour left open and defenceless.

The principal Engineer in the Mining-Work was Captain *Knowles*, assisted by Captain *Boscawen* (who served as a Volunteer, his Ship the *Storeham* not being fit for Sea) and by Mr. *Barnes* Purser of the *Worcester* ; who having been an Officer

A DESCRIPTION

Officer in the Army, was very useful on this Occasion. Commodore *Brown* had the chief Direction of what was done at *Gloria-Castle* and *San Geronimo* Fort; and Captain *Walson* took care of the Execution of all that was to be done at the *Iron* Fort, which was built on a Rock. The Walls of the Lower Battery consisting of 22 Guns were nine foot thick, and of a hard Stone, cemented with such fine Mortar, that it was a long Work to make any Impression in it to come to Mine at all, so that the blowing up took in all sixteen or eighteen Days.

The two larger Castles with their Lower Batteries, and all the other Guns they had on the Moorish Parts of them, joined to the Battery on *San Geronimo* Fort, rendred the Entrance of the Harbour very difficult and dangerous.

On the 6th of *December* the Admiral was joined at *Puerto Bello* by the *Sheerness*, Capt. *Stapleton*, who had seized off *Cartagena* (where he was sent to Cruize) two Vessels, with Supplies of Ammunition, Stores, and Provisions, going to that Place: Having taken in Water next Day, he was sent again on the same Service.

South Sea
Factors de-
livered up.

The Admiral during his Stay at *Puerto Bello* sent a Letter to the President of *Panama*, demanding the Releasement of the Factors and Servants of the *South Sea* Company, who were confined at that Place: In consequence of which the President sent an Officer with Mr. *Humphrys* and Dr. *Wright*, Factors, and also with the Servants of the *South Sea* Company, who delivered them to the Admiral.

The Governor and Inhabitants of *Puerto Bello* expressed the greatest Sense of the Humanity and Generosity with which they were treated by the Admiral,

of PUERTO BELLO.

III

Admiral, and the Squadron under his Command. *Humanity*
For tho' the *English* Sailors were never more *of the Eng-*
alert and eager to take Revenge on the *Spaniards*, *lish.*
yet all their Cruelty was exercised only against
the Forts and Ships of their Enemies, whose Per-
sons they treated with more Clemency than could
indeed be expected, considering the great Provo-
cations they had received. 'Tis true they met
with some Disappointment in not being suffer'd
to plunder the Town: But as War is declared,
the *Spaniards* must not expect to meet with such
friendly Treatment hereafter.

The chief Glory of this Action is certainly *Bravery of*
to be ascribed to the Sailors, who hung no Tail, *the Sailors.*
but went as merrily about their Work, as if they
were going to see a Shew. In one of the Let-
ters from *Puerto Bello*, we meet with this pleasant
Account of the taking of the *Iron Castle*. At
the Landing of the Men, Capt. *Downing*; who
was to command the Attack, called to the Sailors
to halt, being desirous of having them begin the
Affault in regular Order; but one of the foremost
(whose Name I would insert here if I knew it)
reply'd with a great Oath, *Never let us halt be-*
fore we are lame, Captain, and so push'd on with
the rest after him; and having climbed up to the
first Battery struck the *Spanish* Colours and clapt
up an *English* Jack Pendant in their room: Which
was no sooner perceived by the Sailors on board
the Ships, but they set up a general Huzza, and
were seconded therein by those on Shore. This
put the *Spaniards* into such a Consternation, that
some ran one way some another; so that the
Governor, when they took possession of the Place,
had but one Man only to attend him, and that
too a *Negro* Slave.

The

A DESCRIPTION

Spanish
Insolence
and Ingrati-
tude.

The Admiral received a very insolent Letter from Don *Blafs*, the *Spanish* Admiral at *Carta-géna*, in return for some Officers he took care to send him, wherein the Don (agreeably to the Insolence and Ingratitude of a *Spaniard*) tells him, among other Things, *That his Clemency is not the Effect of Choice, but of Fear*—and that to take Cities and destroy Royal Fortifications, is an unusual and unexpected Way of making Reprisals.

Punished
by the Ad-
miral.

This Letter, we are told, nettled the Admiral a good deal, and not without Reason, to see his Courtesy so ill requited; though what better could be expected from a *Spaniard*? Cowardice, Cruelty and Insolence, being inseparable Companions: But I believe the Don has had Reason to repent of his Forwardness before this Time; Admiral *Vernon* having in his Passage to *Châgré*, made bold to throw about 350 Bombs into *Cartagena*, which almost consum'd it, and perhaps payed him a Visit in his return.

BUT for all the Don's bouncing in his Letter, he durst not venture out to save the City from the Misfortune which he had brought upon it.

Cowards insult the Brave, but dare not face them.

And perhaps he may be called to Account for bringing Ruin on the finest City in *America* next to *Mexico*, by provoking Language, which he had not Courage to support; as 'tis said, Don *de Retez* has been for the Ruin of the Fortifications of *Puerto Bello*, by an over-hasty Surrender.

S E C T.

S E C T. VI.

Of Admiral Vernon's taking and blowing up the Castle of Chagre.

THE Admiral being sensible that the dis-
mantling *Puerto Bello* would not answer the
Ends proposed so long as the Castle of *San Lo-*
renzo, at the Mouth of the *Chágré*, remain'd in
the Hands of the *Spaniards*, he resolved to take
it from them, and thereby effectually stop up the
Trade between *Spain* and the *South Sea*, which
might still be carried on by Means of that River;
and in reality, a great deal of Treasure and
Merchandizes were convey'd that Way from *Pa-*
namá to *Cartagena*, of which some rich Prizes,
intercepted in their Passage by our Ships, were a
Proof.

Admiral
Vernon
set out for
Chagre.

HEREUPON the Admiral having refitted his
Ships at *Jamaica*, on the 25th of *February* set
sail from *Port Royal* on this new Expedition with
six Men of War, two Bomb-Ketches, two Fireships,
and three Tenders: The 3d of *March* he came be-
fore *Cartagena*, and bombarded it, as has been be-
fore mentioned, without receiving any Damage
from the Town, into which the Shells fell pretty
successfully; particularly into the principal Church,
the *Jesuits College*, and the *Custom-House*, and
beat down several Houses between them. On the
10th he weighed with his Squadron, and making
the Signal for the Line of Battle coasted the
Shore towards *Boca chica*. The *Spaniards* fired
at him from the small Castles without *Boca chica*,

Bombards
Cartage-
na.

Q

but

A DESCRIPTION

Castle of
San Lorenzo
bombarded.

but none of their Shot reached him ; and having left the *Windsor* and *Greenwich* to cruize off that Port, he sailed for *Puerto Bello* to repair the Damages his small Craft had received. He arrived there the 14th, and on the 22d set out for the River *Châgré*, ordering Captain *Herbert* in the *Norwich* to make all the Sail he could in before him, with the Bomb-Ketches, and all the Fireships and Tenders to play on the Castle of *Châgré*. Captain *Knowles*, who acted as Engineer on board the Bomb-Ketches, got to anchor by three in the Afternoon, and began bombarding and cannonading that Evening ; and by ten at Night the Admiral got also to an Anchor with his own Ship the *Strafford*, the *Falmouth* and the *Louisa* that followed him. He continued bombarding and connonading, with three Ships, firing leisurely only from their Lower-Tiers, till eleven o'Clock on *Monday* the 24th, when the *Spaniards* hung out a Flag of Truce from the Fort, which the Admiral answered ; and stopped all firing as soon as possible, sending Captain *Knowles* on Shore, who soon returned with Don *Juan Carlos Gutierrez de Zavallos*, Captain of Foot, and *Castillano*, or Governor of the Castle of *San Lorenzo*, to whom the Admiral granted the following Conditions :

Surrenders
on Conditions.

“ That the said *Castillano* and all his Garrison
“ should be at Liberty to march out and retire
“ into the Village of *Châgré*, or where else they
“ pleased ; that the Inhabitants of *Châgré* might
“ remain under a Promise of Security for their
“ Persons and Houses ; that the *Guarda Costa*
“ Sloops and Custom House should be delivered
“ up in the Condition they were in ; and that
“ the Clergy and Churches in the Town should
“ be protected and preserved.”

The

THE Capitulation being signed, the *Castillano* Captain was sent ashore again with Captain *Knowles*, whom ^{Knowles} the Admiral appointed Governor of the Castle, with ^{takes Possession.} five Lieutenants, and an hundred and twenty Men, who took Possession of it by three o'Clock in the Afternoon. The same Evening Captain *Knowles* sent and placed a Guard on the Custom House, which stood on the opposite Side of the River; and the Admiral going on shore himself by Day-break next Morning to give all necessary Orders, found the Custom-House full of Goods for the Lading of the Galleons, such as *Guayaquil*, *Cacao*, *Jesuits Bark*, and *Spanish Wool*; and gave Orders for their being immediately shipped off, amounting to no less than 4300 Serons and Bags.

THE two *Guarda Costa* Sloops in the River ^{The} (which were all the *Guarda Costas* left in these Parts) ^{Guarda Costas and Custom-house destroyed.} were sunk just above the Custom House; Carpenters having been ordered to break up their Decks and entirely destroy them. The Custom House being cleared by the 28th, was filled with combustible Matter of the neighbouring Huts, and burned to the Ground.

THE 29th in the Morning, the Brass Cannon (which were eleven Guns and as many Pateraroes) and a good Part of the Gatrison being embarked, the Mines were sprung under the Lower Bastion, which entirely demolish'd it. ^{Castle demolished.} Then two Mines were sprung to blow up some of the upper Parts of the Works: After which, all the Inner Buildings of the Castle were set on Fire, and burned the whole Night. On the 30th the Admiral put to Sea with his Squadron, and on the 1st of *April* in the Evening got to the Mouth of *Puerto Bello* Harbour, where he was joined by the *Windsor* and *Greenwich* the same Day, and on

A DESCRIPTION

Castle of
San Lorenzo
bombard-
ed.

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“ be protected and preserved.”

The

THE Capitulation being signed, the *Castillano* Captain was sent ashore again with Captain *Knowles*, whom the Admiral appointed Governor of the Castle, with five Lieutenants, and an hundred and twenty Men, who took Possession of it by three o'Clock in the Afternoon. The same Evening Captain *Knowles* sent and placed a Guard on the Custom House, which stood on the opposite Side of the River; and the Admiral going on shore himself by Day-break next Morning to give all necessary Orders, found the Custom-House full of Goods for the Lading of the Galleons, such as *Guayaquil*, *Cacao*, *Jesuits Bark*, and *Spanish Wool*; and gave Orders for their being immediately shipped off, amounting to no less than 4300 Serons and Bags.

THE two *Guarda Costa* Sloops in the River (which were all the *Guarda Costas* left in these Parts) were sunk just above the Custom House; Carpenters having been ordered to break up their Decks and entirely destroy them. The Custom House being cleared by the 28th, was filled with combustible Matter of the neighbouring Huts, and burned to the Ground.

THE 29th in the Morning, the Brass Cannon (which were eleven Guns and as many Pateraroes) and a good Part of the Garrison being embarked, the Mines were sprung under the Lower Bastion, which entirely demolish'd it. Then two Mines were sprung to blow up some of the upper Parts of the Works: After which, all the Inner Buildings of the Castle were set on Fire, and burned the whole Night. On the 30th the Admiral put to Sea with his Squadron, and on the 1st of April in the Evening got to the Mouth of *Puerto Bello* Harbour, where he was joined by the *Windsor* and *Greenwich* the same Day, and on

the third by the *Burford*, which he had left at *Jamaica* to be repaired.

The 25th of *April*, when the Express came away, the Admiral was under the Grand *Baru* or *Varu* Island, near *Cartagena*, and perhaps blew up *Boca chica*, and burned *Don Blas's* Gallies before he went home,

S E C T VII.

Of the taking of the Castle of Chagre by Capt. Morgan.

Captain
Morgan
fits out a
large Fleet.

CAPT. Morgan the Year after he had forced *Puerto Bello*, resolving to undertake some new Expedition against the *Spaniards*, gathered a Fleet of no less than thirty-seven Ships. The Admiral was mounted with twenty-two great Iron Guns and six small ones of Brass; the rest carried twenty, eighteen, or sixteen, and the smallest Vessel at least four. They were provided with great Quantities of Ammunition and Fire-balls, with other Inventions of Powder; and the Fleet was mann'd with two-hundred fighting Men, besides Sailors and Boys.

EVERY thing being in order for setting out, three Places were proposed for the Attempt, viz. *Cartagena*, *La Vera Cruz*, and *Panamá*; of which the last was pitch'd upon, as being judged the richest Place.

BUT before they went upon this Party, they determined to recover the Island of *Santa Catalina*, or *Providence*, mentioned p. 31. and force the Castle of *San Lorenzo* at the Mouth of the *Chá-gré*, which last was absolutely necessary for opening

ing a Way to *Panamá* and securing their Retreat.

THEY soon got Possession of *Providence* by ^{Takes the} the Treachery of the Governor, and having ^{Island of} hired some of the *Banditti*, or Out-lawed *Spaniards*, ^{Provi-} for their Guides to *Panamá*, Capt. *Morgan* ordered four Ships and one Boat with four hundred Men, under the Command of Capt. *Brodely* (a Person famous among the Pyrates, and dreaded by the *Spaniards*) as Vice-Admiral, to sail for the River *Chagre*; he staying behind with the rest of the Fleet, for fear, if he should appear himself with so great a Force, the *Spaniards* might suspect his farther Design upon *Panamá*.

THREE Days after their Departure the Ships ^{Castle of} arrived within Sight of the Castle of *San Lorenzo*. ^{San Lo-} This Castle was built upon a high Hill at the ^{renzo de-} Entry of the River *Châgré*, on the Left-hand or ^{scribed.} eastern Side of it, and surrounded with Palisados or wooden Walls: Which were so well terrassed, that they were as strong as the best Walls made of Brick or Stone. The Top of this Hill is divided, as it were, into two Parts, between which lay a Ditch thirty Foot in Depth, covered with a Draw-Bridge, for going into the Castle, which had but one Entrance. On the Land-side it had four Bastions, that of the Sea containing only two more. On the South-side it was wholly inaccessible, on account of the extream Steepness of the Mountain; the North-side whereof is encompassed by the River; which in this Part is very broad. At the Foot of the Hill stood a strong Fort with eight Cannon, which commanded the Mouth of the River, and farther to defend it a little lower were two other Batteries, each mounted with six Pieces of Cannon. At one Side of the Castle were two great Storehouses, filled with all sorts of warlike

warlike Ammunition and Merchandize, brought thither from the Inland Parts; and near the Houses a high Pair of Stairs hewn out of the Rock, by which they ascend to the Top of the Castle. On the West-side of this Fortress was a small Port, not above seven or eight Fathom deep, but very fit for small Vessels, and affording a good Anchorage. Besides all this, there lies at the Entrance of the River a great Rock, scarce to be perceived above Water, unless when the Tide is low.

The Freebooters land near the Castle.

As soon as the *Spaniards* perceived the Ships to approach, they began to fire at them continually with the biggest of their Guns: But they did no Damage to the *Freebooters*, who came to an Anchor in a small Port about a League from the Castle. Next Morning they landed and marched through the Woods to attack it on that Side: But the Way was so difficult and full of Mire, that it was two in the Afternoon before they got thither. What was worse, the Road in the Approach lying near the Castle, and being quite open without any Shelter, they at first lost many of their Men by the Shot from the Castle, to which they were wholly exposed. This perplexed them greatly, nor could they tell what Course to take, since they were under a Necessity of making the Attack on that Side, where, being uncovered from Head to Foot, they could not advance one Step without Danger. Besides, the Castle appeared so strong, as well from its Situation as Fortifications, that they began to doubt much of the Success of the Enterprize: But to give it over they dared not, lest they should be reproached and scorned by their Companions.

They assault it.

At last, after many Debates upon the Occasion, they resolved to hazard their Lives in assaulting the

the Place after the most desperate manner. Accordingly they advanced towards the Castle with their Swords in one Hand and Fireballs in the other, while the *Spaniards* fired at them continually with their Guns and Muskets, crying out with all, *Come on, ye English Dogs, Enemies to God and our King: Let your other Companies which are behind come on too: Ye shall not go to Panama this Bout.* The *Bucaniers*, having made some Trial to scale the Walls, were forced to retreat, and rested till Night; which being come they returned to the Assault to try if by Help of their Fireballs they could prevail, and break down the Pallisadoes. While they were attempting this Work, there happened a remarkable Accident, ^{The Castle} ^{fired by Ac-} to which their Success may be attributed: For ^{cident.} one of the Besiegers having been wounded in the Back with an Arrow, which pierced him through the Body, and came out at the Side of his Breast, he instantly pulled it out with great Courage, and putting it into his Musket with a little Cotton wrapp'd about it, shot it back towards the Castle. The Cotton kindling with the Powder, and the Arrow alighting on a House thatched with Palm-Leaves, whereof there were two or three in the Castle, set them on fire, which meeting with a Parcel of Gunpowder, before the *Spaniards* perceiv'd it, blew the same up, and did a great deal of Mischief. This threw the Besieged into a terrible Consternation, and while they were busied in extinguishing the Flames, which they were the more puzzled how to do for want of Water, the *Bucaniers* took the Opportunity and set Fire to the Palisados, in several Parts at once. This added much to the Astonishment of the *Spaniards*, who now saw it blazing about them on every Side;

A DESCRIPTION

Side; and as the Pales burned down, the Earth fell in Heaps into the Ditch, and made several Breaches in the Wall, over which the *English* climbed in Spight of all the Opposition given them by those left to defeat it, who cast down upon them Stink-Pots fill'd with combustible Matter, whereby many of the Assailants were destroyed.

*The wooden
Walls
burned
down.*

Before Midnight the Pallisadoes were intirely burned down, notwithstanding the utmost Endeavours of the *Spaniards* to prevent it; which the *English* taking Advantage of, although the Fire was great, they would creep on the Ground as nigh to it as they could, and shoot through the Flames against the *Spaniards* they could perceive on the other Side, and thus kill'd many on the Walls. When Day appeared they found the moveable Earth that lay betwixt the Pales almost all fallen into the Ditch, so that those within the Castle lay in a manner equally exposed as themselves: Which giving the Besiegers a greater Advantage than ever, they killed a great Number of *Spaniards*; for the Governor had ordered them not to leave those Posts where the Ditch was most filled with Earth, and caused the Artillery to be carried to the Breaches.

*A Breach
gained.*

THUS although the Walls were so much demolished, the *Spaniards* still continued firing at the *English*, who to put a Stop to it kept shooting incessantly at them. One Part of them was employed wholly in this Service, while another was commanded to watch every Motion of the *Spaniards*, and take all Advantages against them. At last about Noon the *English* happened to gain a Breach, defended by the Governor himself with twenty-five Soldiers, who made a most courageous Resistance

Resistance with Muskets, Pikes, Swords, and even Stones. Yet through all these Weapons the Besiegers forced their Way, till at length they gained the Castle. The Spaniards seeing all lost cast themselves headlong from the Top of the Rock into the Sea, chusing rather to die than ask Quarter. The Governor intending still to defend himself, retreated to the *Corps de Garde*, before which were placed two Pieces of Cannon: But at last he was killed with a Musket-shot in the Head. Whereupon the rest surrendered, to the Number of thirty Men; which were all that remain'd out of three hundred and fourteen in Garrison; and of those thirty scarce ten were unwounded, nor was there one Officer left alive; which must be confessed was a surprizing Resistance for Spaniards.

The Castle taken.

THE thirty Men were made Prisoners, and compelled to relate whatever they knew of the Design of the *English*. Among other Things they said that eight or nine of their own Soldiers had deserted and gone to *Panamá*, to carry the News of their Arrival; that the Governor of that City had notice sent him three Weeks before from *Cartagena*, how the *English* were equipping a Fleet at *Hispaniola* with a Design to pay him a Visit; that this had been discovered by a Deserter from them at *Rio de la Hacha*, where they provided their Fleet with Corn; that on this Advice the said Governor had sent 164 Men to re-inforce the Garrison of *San Lorenzo*, which consisted only of 150, with much Provision and warlike Ammunition; that he had likewise placed Ambuscades all along the River *Châgré*, and waited their coming in the open Field before *Panamá*, with 3600 Men.

Information of the Prisoners.

A DESCRIPTION

Loss of the THE taking of this Castle cost the *Bucaniers* very dear, for they lost above 100 Men, besides 70 wounded; which was a great Number in comparison of what they used to lose at other Times: Nay, 460 of them, or fewer, took *Puerto Bello* the Year before, and all the Castles one after the other with less Difficulty. Admiral *Vernon* in like manner took the famous *Iron Castle* at *Puerto Bello* in two Hours, but was from three in the Afternoon on *Saturday* till ten on *Monday* Morning bombarding the Castle of *San Lorenzo*: which shews this Exploit is scarce to be deemed inferior to the former. The Castle was much stronger than in *Morgan's* Time, having since then been built with Stone.

Their Ex- THE Prisoners were commanded to cast the dead
cesses. Bodies of their own Men down from the Top of the Mountain to the Sea-side, and afterwards bury them. The Wounded were carried into the Church belonging to the Castle; where also the Women were shut up, so that it was made a Place of Prostitution as well as an Hospital. Capt. *Morgan*, having had Notice of the taking of the Castle, arrived at the *Chágré* in eight Days with all his Fleet; which were so over-joyed to see the *English* Colours put forth thereon, that, not minding their Way into the River, four of their Ships, among which the Captain's was one, ran upon the Rock before-mentioned, and were lost, but the Men and Goods were saved. Capt. *Morgan* was brought into the Castle with great Acclamations of Joy; and having been informed of the whole Transaction, ordered the Prisoners to repair what was necessary and set up new Palisados, about the Forts depending on the Castle.

THERE were still in the River some *Spanish* Vessels called *Ghatten*, which serve for transporting

ing Merchandize up and down it, and to go to *Vessels taken in the*
Puerto Bello and Nicaragua. They are commonly *River.*
 mounted with two great Iron Guns and four small
 ones of Brass. These they seized on, together
 with all the small Ships and all the Canows. After
 which Capt. *Morgan*, leaving a Garrison of
 five hundred Men in the Castle, and one hundred
 and fifty more on board the Ships, set out on
 the 8th of *August*, 1669, at the Head of 1200 Men
 for *Panamá*: Of which Expedition we shall say
 nothing here. On the 9th of *March* following
 he returned to the Castle of *Chágré*, from whence
 he sent a great Boat to *Puerto Bello*, demanding
 a considerable Ransom for the same, threatening
 otherwise to destroy it. The Answer was, they
 would not give one Farthing; and that the *Eng-*
lish might do with it what they pleased. Where-
 upon, having ordered the Ordnance to be carried
 on board his Ship, he caused the greater Part of
 the Walls to be demolished, the Buildings burned,
 and as many other Things ruined as the Shortness
 of Time would allow. This done he went secretly
 on board his own Ship, and set sail privately for
Jamaica, leaving most Part of the Fleet behind
 in great Discontent at their Dividend of the Booty,
 the Bulk whereof they said he concealed and
 carried off: Which dishonest Action, if Fact,
 must tarnish the Glory of the Leader.



Of LA VERA CRUZ.

SECT. I.

The Description of the Town and its Port.

THE Name of *La Vera Cruz* belongs to two Towns situate in *New Spain*, in the Province of *Tlascalla* at the bottom of the Bay of *Mexico*. One is called *La Vera Cruz Vieja*, or *Old La Vera Cruz*: The other *La Vera Cruz Nueva*, or *New La Vera Cruz*.

Old La Vera Cruz stands on the Coast sixty Leagues from *Mexico*, about three Quarters of a Mile from the Shore. The Place was first discovered by *Grijalva* in 1518. Next Year *Cortez* built a Town here, and with a great deal of Ceremony gave it the Name of *Villa Ricca de la Vera Cruz*. It was called *Villa Ricca* on Account of the Gold that was found there by *Grijalva*; and the Surname of *La Vera Cruz* was added because they had arrived on *Good Friday*. *Roger Bodenham*, who was there in 1564, mentions also this Name of *Villa Ricca* as belonging to it.

Here Cortez landed. THIS Place is famous for the landing of the great *Hernando Cortez*, who conquered *Mexico*, and here executed that noble and before unheard-of Piece of Policy, to sink the Ships which brought the first *Spaniards* thither, that they might think of nothing but Conquest, by destroying all Hopes of ever

ever returning by Sea to *Cuba* or elsewhere. Here the first five hundred *Spaniards* fortified themselves against Millions of *Indians*; and here were appointed the first Officers Military and Civil, by the *Spaniards* on the Continent.

IN *Tompson's* Time, 1556, it had not above 300 Families, and served only for landing the Goods, and trading with the Merchants and Factors.

It stands in a spacious Plain; on one Side is the River, and the other is encompassed with Sand, driven from time to time from the Shore by tempestuous Weather. *Situation.*

The Country about is all flat Land; and a Mile from the Sea is a great Wilderness, abounding with red Deer, which the Mariners when they had a Mind used to go and kill. The River runs on the South Side of the Town, and some part of the Year is quite dry; yet it commonly runs very strong, and according to *Carranza*, in calm Weather, throws the Ship out from the Coast, so that in sailing from *Punta del Gada* to *San Juan de Ulua*, the best way is to keep in 16 Fathom Water, which is the Channel.

Herrera says, it contain'd above two hundred *Spanish* Families, and had a Royal Treasury, and a House of Contractation, which doubtless now it has not. The Market-place is in the Middle of the Town, where there are two great Elm Trees.

THIS City is encompassed with Woods of various Kinds; among the Fruit-trees are Oranges, Lemons, *Guiaves*, &c.

THE Woods are stored with Birds, as *Popinjays*, some as large as Ravens, and their Tails as long as the Pheasants: Many sorts of Purple-colour'd Birds, and very pretty little Monkeys.

A DESCRIPTION

TWENTY Years ago, the Children died here as soon as they were born, but now [that is, in 1572] 'tis not so.

*Unhealthy
Air.*

'Tis subject to many Diseases, occasioned by the great Heat and Muskatos or Gnats, whose Bite causes the Flesh to swell as if venomous, and many die of it. They bite People when asleep, and most infest Strangers. Many of the Seamen and Officers of Ships died of Distempers, especially such as were not used to the Country, who by walking in the Heat of the Day, eating Fruit to Excess, and lying with the Women, contracted Calentures, from which few escaped Death.

Chilton relates that Women were never deliver'd in this Place, for as soon as they perceived themselves with Child they got into the Country to avoid the Air, which is very infectious, although they used every Morning to drive above 2000 Head of Cattle through the Town, in order to carry off the noxious Vapours proceeding from the Earth.

Bad Port.

THO' Ships for a long time did unlade here, yet the Port continued but a short Space; for the Harbour proving too dangerous for Ships, (being nothing but an open Road without any Island to secure it from the Violence of the Northern Winds, which are always dangerous on this Coast) the *Spaniards* removed the Port to the Island of *San Juan de Ulhua*, which is before *New la Vera Cruz*, where their Ships found the first safe Road by reason of a Rock, [or rocky Island] which is a great Defence against those Winds; and to perpetuate the Discovery, transferred also the Name of *La Vera Cruz* to the new Port. So long as this continued to be the Scale or Landing-place, all the Factors of the *Spanish* Merchants dwelt here; they received the Goods from the Ships, and laded them with Merchandize and Treasure for their Return

Return to *Spain*. They were about 400, who remained only during the time the *Spanish* Fleet was unlading and lading again, and that is from the End of *August* to the Beginning of *April*: After which, to avoid the Inconveniencies of the Air, they retired to *Xalapa*, a Town 16 Miles Miles within Land, in a very healthy Soil.

FROM the Port they carried the Goods in small Vessels or Barks called Frigates to the Town, by means of the River on which it stands: But as the unlading Ships here took up four or five Months, on account of its Distance from the Port, for this reason in *Herrera's* time, 1601, they unladed their Fleets in the Port of *Buytron* (so called from a House there built by one *Buytron*) about 800 Paces from the Port or Isle of *San Juan de Ulua*. Here the unlading was finished in six Weeks; for the Sake of which Conveniency they were then beginning to build a Town there; which was the Original of *New La Vera Cruz*.

Landing-Place removed.

THIS latter Town stands by the Sea-side about 15 or 16 Miles to the South-East or S. S. E. of the Old Town; twelve Leagues to the N. W. of the River *Alverado*, according to *Dampier*, tho' by Pilots its reckon'd 24; and 60 *Spanish* Leagues from *Mexico* one way, and 65 another. Some make it 70 Leagues, others more, reckoning 4 common *Italian* Miles, of 75 in a Degree, to a League.

ACCORDING to the Plan in the Seat of War it is of an oval Figure, broad at the South-East End and narrow at the North-western: it is about half a Mile long and two Furlongs in Breadth. The Streets are strait as a Line, and the Buildings regular; though all of them, Houses, Churches and Cloysters, are built of Timber and Boards, at least they were so in *Gage's* time; which is the reason

Magnitude Buildings..

A DESCRIPTION

reason that often during the impetuous North Winds the Town has been almost burned to the Ground. The Houses are decently furnished with Porcellane and China Goods; and their Churches magnificently adorn'd with Plate.

On the South East Side runs a River, which rising from the South proceeds northwards till it comes close to the Town, and then passes N. E. to the Sea; near which its Stream dividing makes a little Isle, which lies in the Mouth of it.

*Inhabi-
tants.*

THERE are no Nobility here, or any Person of Quality, though there is scarce a richer Town in the World. Most of the Inhabitants are *Mulattos*, of a tawny dark Colour. Yet those *Mulattos* call themselves white, affecting to be thought so, as well as by way of Distinction from their Negro Slaves. These latter often, having pick'd up a good deal of Money, ransom themselves and become considerable Merchants. The Number of Inhabitants does not exceed 3000, but they are all Merchants or Factors, some of whom are very rich; in short he is look'd upon as an inconsiderable Fellow who is not worth 100,000 Pounds at least.

The Women. THEY live mostly upon Chocolate and Sweetmeats, are extraordinary sober, and eat little Flesh.

THE Men are haughty: the Women keep retired above Stairs that they may not be seen by Strangers, whose Conversation they could otherwise like very well. They seldom go abroad, and when they do it is in Coaches or Chairs, if they are People of Figure: The rest, who cannot afford it, go covered with fine silk Veils reaching from the Crown of their Heads to their Feet, with only a small Opening on the Right-side for them to see their Way. In their own Apartments they wear nothing but a Smock and silk Petticoat, laced

laced with Gold or Silver, and nothing at all on their Heads, only their Hair platted with Ribbon. However for Ornament they have a Gold Chain about their Neck, Bracelets of the same, and Emerald Pendants at their Ears.

THE Men understand Trade very well, but being fond of State and Ease, are slothful and averse to Labour. They are very superstitious, wear great Strings of Beads about their Necks, and fill their Houses with Pictures and Images of their Saints.

Character of the Men.

THE Air is very hot and unhealthy when any Wind blows except the North, which rises commonly once in 8 or 15 Days, and holds for 20 or 24 Hours; blowing so hard that there is no going ashore from the Ships; and then the Cold is very piercing. The unhealthy Season is chiefly from about *April* to *November*, because it rains almost continually all that time; and from *November* to *April* again, the Wind and Sun, tempering each other without Rain, make the Place pleasant.

Air and Weather.

THE hot or sickly Country continues for 45 Miles towards *Mexico*, and then a more temperate Country begins. Dangerous Fluxes are caused by eating too much Fruit, and then drinking too eagerly of the Water; of which Excesses hundreds of those who went over with *Gage* died.

WHEN the Weather is clear one can plainly discern two Mountains, which are in the Road to *Mexico*, rising above the Clouds, and 40 Leagues distant, all covered with Snow, [whence called by many *Snow-Hill*.]

'TIS seated in a barren sandy Plain encompassed with Mountains, beyond which are Woods and Meadows well stocked with Cattle and Wild-fowl. *Gage* went round it in 1625, and found the Situation to be sandy except on the South West

Situation.

S

Side,

A DESCRIPTION

Side, where the Soil is marshy and full of Bogs: to which, join'd to the great Heats, the Unhealthiness of the Air many be attributed. The Author of the *Compleat Geographer* tells us, the North Wind drives the Sand so that it almost overwhelms the Houses, and has actually buried the Walls of the Town, which People now constantly ride over: But this must be understood of the Old City.

*Cochinil
how pro-
duced.*

ABOUT *La Vera Cruz* there are a sort of Thorn Bushes, without Leaves; among which there grows an extraordinary Plant: for though it has but a small Stem, yet it shoots out Leaves of a Cabbage-green, thick as a Man's Finger, which grow out, one at the End of another, in the Shape of a Racket, from whence the Plant has that Name. From the Leaf there grows a sort of red Figs, with Seeds like those of the Pomegranate, full of Juice of a Violet Colour, but ill-tasted; yet a sort of Flies that cleave to this Fruit are so fond of it that they eat of it 'till they burst and fall down dead. These dead Flies are carefully gathered and dried, being the *Cochinilla*, which is brought into *Europe*, and makes that beautiful scarlet Dye.

*The Cardi-
nal.*

THE Birds and Beasts are much the same as in other Countries of *America*. There is a sort of Bird all over red, which for that Reason is call'd the *Cardinal*. This they often tame and teach to sing like a *Canary* Bird.

*Its
Strength.*

IN *Gage's* time this Place was not strong; all its Strength, according to him, consisted in the dangerous and difficult Entrance into the Port, and in the Castle of *St. John de Ulhua*, which had but a slight Garrison of Soldiers: For in the Town there was neither Fort nor Castle, nor scarce any People fit for Arms.

IN 1683 the Town had no Fortifications on the Land-side, excepting two Forts which commanded it,

it, one at the S. E. End with twelve Pieces of Cannon, the other at the N. W. End with 8 Guns. However, it always had a very numerous Garrison, and might in a short time be assisted by all the Forces of *New Spain*. At present the Fortifications next the Land are inconsiderable, consisting of a Wall with Bastions, terminated at the Shore by the said Forts, which are of no great Strength: But a little more to the North stands a large advanced Fort, with four Bastions built on the Strand, which seems to be very strong.

THE Side facing the Sea forms a Semicircle or Half-Moon, the Horns of which are made by two Sand-banks, on one of which the advanced Fort is built. The Mole is towards the middle of this Front; and opposite to it 3 Quarters of a Mile lies the Island * which forms the Port of *New la Vera Cruz*.

THIS Island was named *Culua* by the Natives, *Isle of San Juan de Ulua* when *Grijalva* first discovered it in 1518, who gave it that of *San Juan de Ulua* or *Ulbua*. It was also called the *King's Island*, when Capt. *Hawkins* was there in 1586. It consisted of Stones, or as some say, it was a little Rock not more than a Bow-shot a cross any way, nor past three Foot above Water in the highest Place. *Herrera* says, it was so low that the Tides covered it.

ON this Island stands a square Castle, which takes up the whole Space, and bears the Name of the Island: It is well built, and furnished with all Necessaries, besides a numerous Garrison. Capt. *Robert Pearson* publish'd a Prospect of the Town and

S 2

Har-

* Authors vary about the Distance of this Island: Some make it two Bow-shots, others two Furlongs, *Gage* a Musket-shot, from Land. *Chilton* says, 'tis two Miles from thence: Doubtless a Mistake for two Furlongs.

A DESCRIPTION

Harbour of *La Vera Cruz*, with a Plan and Prospect of this Castle of *San Juan de Ulua*, which makes a very strong and fine Appearance. These Prospects are copied in the *Seat of War*. By the Captain's Account it is furnished with eighty-five Brass Guns and four Mortars. But Mr. *Joutel*, in his Relation of *de la Sale's* Expedition to the *Mississipi*, says it mounts two hundred Cannon. When *Van Horn* plunder'd it their Number was reckon'd to be seventy.

Its Foundation.

HOWEVER that be, this Castle has been long thought impregnable. It began to be built on occasion of Capt. *Hawkins's* Appearance there in 1568. In 1556, when *Tomson* was here, there was only one little House and Chappel in the Island: But on the Side facing the Land they had made a Kay, being a Wall of Gravel and Freestone four hundred Foot long, and twenty-four from the Top to the Foundation. Before this Kay was built the King of *Spain* used to keep twenty strong Negroes only to repair the Damages done to the Island by the bad Weather. In this Wall were great Iron and Brass Rings, as there are now in the Castle Wall, to which the Ships were fasten'd by Chains, with an Anchor also on the Island, so that they rode so close that the Mariners might leap ashore from the Forecastle. This Wall was begun by the Vice-Roy Don *Antonio de Mendoza*. In *Chilton's* Time, 1568, there were two Bulwarks at the Ends of the Wall. In 1572, when *Hawkes* wrote, they were building the Castle; and it appears from *Phillip's* Account that it was finish'd before the Year 1582.

The Port.

THE Port is made by this Island, which shelters Ships against the North Winds, that rage frequently on this Coast, where there is no other safe

safe Port for want of such a Rock or Island to defend it.

No Ship dares cast Anchor within the Haven but only under the Rock; nor are they there always safe, though secur'd by Anchors and fasten'd to the Rings in the Wall. For sometimes it hath happened, that floating with the Stream too much on one Side of the Rock, they have been torn from their Fastenings by the Force of the Winds, and cast upon the other Rocks; or driven out into the Ocean, as happen'd to one of the Ships belonging to the Fleet, *Gage* went in, in 1625; and *Tomson* observes, that those Winds used to carry Ships, Houses, and all away to the Continent. They are so violent that they do Mischief every where through the Gulf of *Mexico*, and drive the Wreck from one Side of it to the other. *Hawkes* in the Way to *Old la Vera Cruz* found by the Shore great Trees, which he was told were driven thither by Storms from the Coast of *Florida* 300 Leagues distant.

WHILE *Gage* was at *La Vera Cruz* in 1625, a Storm from the North so shook the slight-boarded Houses, that he and the new landed Fryers expected every Minute they should be blown along with them into the Sea, or that the Houses would fall upon them; insomuch that they quitted their Beds at Midnight and ran into the Yard for Shelter: But in the Morning the Fryers of the Cloysters, who were used to those Tempests, laughed at them for their Timerousness, assuring them that they never slept better than when their Beds were rocked with such furious Blasts. However, *Gage* and his Fellow-Priests had not Faith enough to stand the Trial any longer, but made what Haste they could away.

FROM

The Weather.

FROM *March* to *September* the Trade-Winds blow in the Gulph of *Mexico* between the N. E. and S. E. the Weather being then pleasant and serene. But from *September* to *March* the North Winds reign, producing tempestuous Weather, especially in *November*, *December*, and *January*, when you have Hurricanes and stormy Blasts for twenty Days successively. Yet sometimes growing calm the Trade-Winds return, and the Weather becomes serene: And indeed, says *Caranza*, Pilot of the *Flota* in 1718, if it were not for such Intermissions it would be impossible to sail here during the North-Winds, the Currents themselves altering their Course. The same Author remarks, that the Tides on this Coast, as every where else within the Windward Islands, are irregular; and when the North-Wind blows the Sea runs towards the Coast, which causes the Water to swell higher near the Shore then than at other times.

THE Haven is but small, and will not admit of many Ships. There were but 31 Ships in Port when Capt. *Hawkins* was there, yet they rode one upon another.

How Ships enter the Port.

SHIPS enter this Port by two Channels; the most frequented is that of the Flat, the other which is very deep is called the *Gallisian* Channel; 'tis the more northerly of the two. On both Sides of these Channels are many little Rocks as large as a small Barrel.

As soon as the Vessels come in Sight of the Town they make Signals for Boats to come and conduct them into the Haven, which they do; guiding them, as *Gage* tells us, one by one between the Rocks that lie round about it, and are known only by Marks and Flags set up to warn the Shipping; which makes this Port, says he, as
dangerous.

dangerous as any I have seen in all my Travels, both on the North and South Seas. Another Author says, that tho' these Rocks seem dangerous, one need not fear them.

THERE are three or four other small Islands or Rocks which the Spaniards call *Cayos*, the English near La Keys, on this Coast: Two Miles to the South East of the Island of *San Juan de Ulua*, and half a Mile from Land, is that of *de los Sacrificos*, or of *Sacrifices*; a League to the North lies the Island *Gallega*; a Mile and Quarter to the N. E. that of *Anagada*; a League to the E. N. E. is *Blanquilla*; and two Miles and half to the East by South is *Berde* or *Verte*.

OF these little Islands, or *Cayos*, the most remarkable is that of *Sacrifices*. *Grijalva*, in 1518, discovered this Island, which appeared to him well peopled; and landing part of his Men, found here several handsome Buildings, and among the rest a Temple, with a little Tower and a Chappel of a pretty singular Structure. It was open on all Sides, and had in the middle a Stair-case of twenty Steps quite uncovered, which ascended to a sort of Altar, whereon were placed Images of a horrible Figure; and going near to view the Place he found four or five dead Bodies of Persons, who, as he judg'd, had been sacrificed the Night before: whence he gave it the Name of the *Island of Sacrifices*. Though it is called more commonly at present *Sacrifice Key*. He met with the same thing in the Island of *Culua*, now called *San Juan de Ulua*. Next Year *Cortes* coming to the same Place found some Images, several bloody Papers, and much human Gore of those who had been sacrificed; the Block whereon they cut open those *Sacrifices*; and the Razors made of Flint, wherewith they opened their Breast; which struck the Spaniards

A DESCRIPTION

Spaniards with some Horror and Fear. Here the *Spaniards* formerly unladed their Goods, but it is no longer frequented, as being, they say, haunted with Spirits and Devils. Here *Van Horn's* Fleet rode in 1683. There is great Plenty of Fish about these two Islands.

Trade of
La Vera
Crúz.

La Vera Cruz is the Barador or Port of *Mexico*; and may be considered as the Magazine of all the Merchandize and Treasure that goes out of *New Spain*, or is transported from *Europe*. 'Tis a Place of the most extensive Trade in the *Spanish* Dominions, perhaps in the whole World: for hither once a Year come the Riches of the *East-Indies*, brought by the *Acapulco* Ships; 'tis the natural Center of the *American* Riches; and the *Flota* brings hither annually Goods to an immense Value from *Old Spain*: yet its Cargo at setting out is not so rich as that of the *Galleons* whatever it may be in its Return.

THIS Place has a great Trade from *Mexico*, and by *Mexico* from the *East Indies*, likewise from *Spain*, from *Cuba*, *St. Domingo* or *Hispaniola*, *Jucatan*, and from *Peru* by *Puerto Bello*; from *Cartagena* and all the Islands in the North Sea; also by the River *Alvarado*, which goes up to *Zapotecas*, *St. Ildefonso* and towards *Guaxaca*, and by the River *Grijalva* running up to *Tabasco*, *Los Zeques*, and *Chiapa de Indos*. This extensive Trade makes this little Town very rich, as abounding with the Treasures both of the *East* and *West-Indies* as well as all the Commodities of the Continents.

As the Unhealthiness of the Place is the Cause of the Fewness of Inhabitants, that Fewness is the Cause that the Merchants are so extremely rich; and they might be still far richer, had they not suffered so often by Fire.

THOUGH

THOUGH all Strangers are prohibited trading hither, yet a clandestine Trade is carried on by Means of Presents made to such Persons as can favour them.

FROM *La Vera Cruz* the Goods are sent to *Mexico*, *Pueblo delos Angelos*, *Sacatecas*, *St. Martin*, and other inland Places, upon Horses and Mules, in Waggon drawn by Oxen, and Carts drawn by Mules.

THE Fair at *La Vera Cruz* resembles that of *The Fair. Puerto Bello*, only it continues longer; for tho' the Flota ought to sail regularly in *May*, yet it is detained sometimes till *August*. The Gold and Silver is never embark'd till within a few Days of the Fleet's being ready to sail.

THE Treasure used formerly to be sent from *Mexico* to *La Vera Cruz* to wait for the Flota: But since the Place was surpriz'd and plunder'd by the *Bucaniers* in 1683, it stops at the City *de los Angelos*, 20 Leagues from *Mexico*, where it remains, till Notice comes that the Fleet is ready to return for *Europe*; on which Advice it is sent forward to *La Vera Cruz* and embarked.

GEOGRAPHERS have err'd much in the Situation of this Place: Some place it in 18 Degrees of Latitude, others in 18°. 30'. Mr. *Popple's Map* in 18°. 48'. Capt. *Hawkins* in 19 Degrees. But according to *Carranza*, Pilot of the Flota, it lies in 19°. 10'. which is two Minutes less than it was observed to be by Mr. *Harris* in 1727. They err no less as to the Longitude, which, according to Mr. *Popple's Map*, is 100°. 54'. from *London*; whereas by the Observations of the *Spaniards* in 1577, its Longitude is only 97°. 50'. and Mr. *Harris's* Observation makes it still 50 Minutes less.

T

BUT

*The two
Towns con-
founded by
Authors.*

BUT many Map-makers commit a still more unpardonable Error, confounding the new and old Town together. In Mr. Popple's Map and the Charts of the *Atlas Maritimus*, the Island of *San Juan de Ulua*, is extended above 8 Miles, and with its Castle is removed to *Old La Vera Cruz*, while the Isle of *Sacrifices* (but two Miles from the Castle and one from Shore) is left forty Miles behind, and carried thirty from the Coast.

THOUGH the Author of the *Compleat Geographer* makes *La Vera Cruz* a distinct Place from *San Juan de Ulua*, yet by placing the Castle at the former, and saying it serves to secure the Harbour and Ships, 'tis plain he confounds them together. He accuses Gage of great Ignorance, as if he had committed the same Fault, and for saying *the one was remov'd to the other, as if, says he, there was but one still*: Wherein he only betrays his own, seeming not to know that there are two Places which bear the same Name; and that the Name, as well as Port, was removed from *Old La Vera Cruz* to *San Juan de Ulua*.

S E C T. II.

An Account of Capt. John Hawkins's Adventure at San Juan de Ulua.

ALTHO' Capt. *Hawkins* neither took *La Vera Cruz* nor went thither with a Design to take it, yet it may not be improper to give an Account of his Adventure at *San Juan de Ulua*, where he suffered more by his Indulgence and Generosity to the *Spaniards*, than if he had treated them as Enemies. The following Extract from his own Relation

Relation will shew that they are never to be trusted under the most solemn Engagements, and that they will always repay Kindness with Ingratitude and Treachery. I mean the governing Part.

CAPT. *Hawkins* set out from *Plymouth* the 2d ^{Captain} of *October* 1567, with six Ships: The *Jesus*, in ^{Hawkins} which he went himself as Admiral, accompany'd ^{sets out,} with the *Minion*, the *William* and *John*, the *Judith*, the *Angel*, and the *Swallow*. The Captains of the three first were *John Hampton*, *Thomas Bolton*, and *Francis Drake*, afterwards Sir *Francis*.

THE Captain having traded with the *Spaniards* along the Coast of *Tierra firma*, set forwards to return home: But being surprized by the Storms on the Coast of *Florida*, they were forcibly driven to the Bottom of the Bay of *Mexico*; and finding himself obliged to put into *San Juan de Ulua*, took three Ships in his Way, which carried 100 Passengers: By which Means he hop'd to obtain Victuals for his Money, and Leave for repairing his Ships.

THE 16th of *Sept.* 1568, he entered the Port ^{Arrives at} with his Ships, the *Spaniards* thinking them to be ^{San Juan} the Fleet of *Spain*: But the Officers coming on board were much surpriz'd when they found their ^{de Ulua.} Mistake; till understanding their Demand was nothing but Victuals, they grew easy.

THERE were at this time in the Port 12 Ships, laden with Gold and Silver to the Value of 200, 000 Pounds, all which, as well as the King's Island, [or the Island of *San Juan de Ulua*] were in the Captain's Power: But he generously released them, and the Passengers before-mention'd, without taking the least Trifle from them; only he detained two Persons of Figure as Security till the Return of a Messenger, whom he sent Post immediately to *Mexico*, to acquaint the Presidents

A DESCRIPTION

and Council with his being driven thither by Stress of Weather ; desiring Leave to repair and victual his Ships, as Friends to K. *Philip*, likewise that they should give order that on the Arrival of the *Spanish* Fleet (which was hourly expected) all Difference might be prevented.

The Captain in doubt how to Act.

NEXT Morning the 17th they descry'd 13 Sail of great Ships making towards the Port. This threw him into a great Dilemma: If he kept them out as he easily could, they would be infallibly wreck'd, and the Treasure they carry'd amounting to six Millions (or 1,800,000 l.) lost, which might incense Queen *Elizabeth* against him. On the other hand, he knew if he let them in under ever such solemn Engagements, that they would break them if they found it in their Power to hurt his Ships: Besides the Port was so small that the Vessels must of Necessity lie close together, and they would not have room to stir in case of the North Winds, or an Attack. For this reason he was inclined to have kept them out: But the Fear of the Queen's Displeasure prevailing, he determined to let them come in, and stand the best he could on his Guard, in hopes he might be able to defend their accustomed Treachery; which, to use the Captains own Words, *they never fail to execute where they may have Opportunity, or [may] circumvent it by any Means.* Whereupon Capt. *Hawkins* sent to let the General of the Fleet know, that he could not suffer him to enter till some Security was given for the Safety of their Ships while in the Port, and certain Demands were granted them.

Comes to an Agreement with the Vice-Roy.

THE Messenger being returned, brought Word that there was a new Vice-Roy arrived in the Fleet, named Don *Martin de Henriques*, who said, if the Captain would send his Conditions they should be

be readily and faithfully performed; at the same time using many fair Speeches, and intimating, that in his Passage he had heard how civilly the Captain had carried it to the Inhabitants wherever he came. Capt. *Hawkins* hereupon drew up the Terms he demanded, which were, (1) That the *English* might have Victuals paying for them, and sell as much Goods as might supply their Wants. (2) That twelve Gentlemen might be given as Hostages on each Side. (3) That the Island, with the eleven Brass Cannon planted thereon, might be in Possession of the *English* during their Stay; and that no *Spaniards* might land on the Island with Arms.

THE Vice-Roy at first made some Difficulty *Which is chiefly* about the Island, which, had it been left *solemnly* in the Hands of the *Spaniards*, would have prov'd *ratified,* the Ruin of the *English*; for the first North Wind they would have cut their Cables, whereby their Ships had been driven ashore. However at last he complied; Hostages were exchanged, and the Conditions signed and sealed by the Vice-Roy himself. This Truce was proclaimed with Sound of Trumpet, and both Parties forbidden to violate it on Pain of Death. The two Generals of the Fleets likewise met and pledg'd their Faith to each other for the Performance of the said Agreement.

AT the End of three Days all things being *With an Intent to break it.* concluded, the Fleet entered the Port on the 26th with the usual Salutations; and two Days more were employed to range the Ships of each Nation by themselves, the Officers and Sailors on both Sides professing a great deal of Friendship. But the *Spaniards* intended nothing less: For they had by this time mustered a thousand Men on Land, and designed on *Thursday* the 24th at Dinner-time to set on the *English* on every Side. On the Day appointed

A DESCRIPTION

appointed in the Morning the *English* perceived the *Spaniards* shifting their Weapons from Ship to Ship, pointing their Ordnance towards them: They likewise observed greater Numbers of Men passing too and fro than the Business on board the Ships required; which with other Circumstances giving Grounds of Suspicion, Capt. *Hawkins* sent to the Vice-Roy to know the Meaning of such Movements. Whereupon the Vice-Roy sent Orders to have every thing removed that might give the *English* Umbrage, with a Promise on the Faith of a Vice-Roy to be their Defence against any villainous Attempts of the *Spaniards*. However, the Captain not being satisfied with this Answer, because he suspected a great Number of Men to be hidden in a Ship of 900 Tons which was moored next to the *Minion*, he sent the Master of the *Jesus*, who understood *Spanish*, to know of the Vice-Roy whether it was so or not. The Vice-Roy finding he could conceal his mean and villainous Design no longer, detained the Master, and causing the Trumpet to be sounded, the *Spaniards* at the Signal set upon the *English* on all Sides. Those who were upon the Island, being smitten with Fear at this sudden Alarm, fled, thinking to recover their Ships; but the *Spaniards* landing in great Numbers at several Places at once (which they might do without Boats, the Ships lying close to the Shore) slew them all without Mercy, excepting a few, who escaped on board the *Jesus*.

*Perfidy of
the Vice-
Roy.*

*The En-
glish Fleet
attacked by
the Spa-
niards.*

THE great Ship, wherein three hundred Men were concealed, immediately fell aboard the *Minion*: But she having put all Hands to work the Moment their Suspicions commenced, had in that short Space, which was but half an Hour, weigh'd all her Anchors. Having thus gotten clear, and avoided the first Brunt of the great Ship, the latter clapped

clapped the *Jesus* aboard, which was at the same time attacked by two other Ships. However with much a-do and the Loss of many Men, she kept them off till she cut her Cable and got clear also.

As soon as the *Jesus* and *Minion* were got two Spanish Ships length from the Spanish Fleet they began the Fight, which was so furious, that in one Hour the Admiral of the *Spaniards* and another Ship were supposed to be sunk, and their Vice-Admiral burned, so that they had little to fear from the Enemies Ships: But they suffered exceedingly from the Ordnance on the Island, which sunk their small Ships, and mangled all the Masts and Rigging of the *Jesus* in such a manner, that there were no Hopes of bringing her off. This being the Case they determin'd to place her for a Shelter to the *Minion* till Night, and then taking out of her what Victuals and other Necessaries they could, to leave her behind. But presently after perceiving two large Ships, fired by the *Spaniards*, bearing down directly upon them, the Men aboard the *Minion*, in great Consternation, without Consent of either the Captain or Master, set sail and made off from the *Jesus* in such Haste, that Captain *Hawkins* had scarce time to get on board her. As for the Men, most of them followed in a small Boat: The rest were left to the Mercy of the *Spaniards*, which, says the Captain, *I doubt was very little.*

THUS of all the English Ships, only the *Minion* and the *Judith*, a small Bark of 50 Ton, escap'd the Treachery of the *Spaniards*. In the Night the *Judith* forsook the *Minion*, which rode two Bow-shots from the Spanish Ships. Next Morning she got to an Island a Mile distant, where she had like to have been cast away by a North Wind which arose, being left only with two Anchors. But the Wind at length abating, she set sail on the 25th of

Distress of of September, and after wandering fourteen Days the Minion. in unknown Seas, they were constrained by Hunger to seek the Land; Hides, Rats, Cats, Parrots, and Monkeys, being thought good Meat. Thus the 8th of *October* they put ashore in the Bottom of the Bay of *Mexico*, near the Mouth of the River *Tampico*, the Latitude of $23^{\circ}.30'$. Here the Company divided: One hundred desired to be set ashore, and the rest, which was the same Number, resolved to venture home. So the 16th of *October*, after suffering another violent Storm, they set forward; and passing through the Gulf of *Florida*, made the best of their Way: But not being able to reach *England*, they were forced to put into *Ponte Vedra* in *Spain*; where the *Spaniards* coming to know their Weakness, thought by Treachery to seize them a second time, but they sailed forthwith to *Vigo* not far off. They there met with some *English* Ships which supplied their Wants; and departing the 20th of *Jan.* 1586, arrived in *Mounts Bay* in *Cornwall* the 25th of *January* following.

She Returns home.

THE hundred Men travelled by Land to reach the *English* Dominions on the Continent; but few of them lived to get thither.

S E C T. III.

The taking and plundering of La Vera Cruz, by VAN HORN a Dutchman, in 1683.

Van Horn's Expedition.

TOWARDS the End of the Year 1682, or the Beginning of the next, one *Van Horn* a *Dutchman*, who had been all his Life in the *French* Service, but according to the Custom of the *Pyrates* had often taken the *French* Ships, having gone

gone to *San Domingo* to buy Negros, the President of the City seiz'd him and his whole Cargo by Way of Reprisals for having plundered the King of Spain's Subjects. *Van Horn* enraged at this Proceeding vow'd Revenge, and comes to *Petit Goave*. Here, according to the Historian of the *Freebooters*, he had a Commission from Mr. *Pouancey* to cruize upon the *Spaniards*: But in all likelihood, says *Pere le Pers*, the Author is mistaken in this Point, or else the Commission was of an older Date than *Van Horn* pretended it was, since for some Years before all Piracy had been prohibited, and the Expedition we are going to speak of was charged on the *Bucaniers* as a Crime.

HOWEVER it was, *Van Horn* assembled about 300 of the stoutest *Bucaniers*, among whom was the famous *Granmont*, who having in a Storm lost a Ship of 52 Guns, and with her all he had in the World, was willing to serve as a Volunteer in this Enterprize: But as *Van Horn* did not intend to confine himself merely to Acts of Piracy on the Seas, he looked out for other Associates with whom he might undertake something considerable, nor was he long before he found such; the most remarkable of whom were *Laurent de Graff*, of *Dort* in *Holland*, *Godefroi* and *Jonqué*.

As they were all Persons of the greatest Reputation among the *Bucaniers*, they soon got together a Body of 1200 chosen Men, who imbar-
ed in 10 Ships. They had some Difficulty to determine what Place they should attack; but after a few Debates about the Matter, *Van Horn* and *Granmont* resolved to attack *La Vera Cruz*.

THE Account of this Expedition in a Letter from *Jamaica*, inserted in Capt. *Sharp's* Voyages, informs us, that the *Bucaniers* had a Rendezvous

Is joined
by Gran-
mont and
others.

Number of
Men.

at
us

at Cape Catoche, in the Entrance of the Bay of Mexico with the following Force.

Their Ships and Force. Van Horn, who was Admiral, in an *English* Ship of 50 Guns; Laurence (that is, *de Graff*) in a Prize of 26 Guns, Vice-Admiral; *Christian* a *Dutchman*, in Van Horn's Petach of 40 Guns; *Mitchel*, a *Frenchman*, in a Prize of Laurence's of 26 Guns; *Yanchey*, (or *Jonqué*) a *Dutchman*, in a Prize of 16 Guns; *Bloat*, another *Dutchman*, in a Prize of 8 Guns; *Jacob Hall*, a *Bermudean*, in a small Vessel of 8 Guns. *Spurre*, an *Englishman*, in a Sloop of *Jamaica*; and a *Barco Longo* of Laurence's.

IN this Relation there is no mention of *Godefroi*, who according to *Le Pers* commanded a Ship. Perhaps he is mistaken, for *Mitchel*, who probably was the famous *Michel le Basque*. This *Memoir* likewise makes their Force to be no more than between 900 and 1000 Men, most of them *French* and *Dutch*, with some few *English*.

Arrived before La Vera Cruz ON the 8th of May they arrived on the Coast of *La Vera Cruz*, and there lay by. The Town at this time was unfortified towards the Land, and had only two Forts at the Ends, one of 12, the other of 8 Guns; however it had a numerous Garrison, and might besides in a very short Space be relieved by all the Forces of *New Spain*.

LUCKILY for the *Bucaniers*, while they were consulting how to succeed in an Attempt which seemed to require ten times their Number of Forces, they learned from some *Spaniards* they had seized, that two Ships loaden with *Cacao* from the Coast of *Caraccas*, was hourly expected at *La Vera Cruz*. On this Advice they embarked all the Men they could on board *Yanchey* and *Christian*, (*le Pers* says the two largest Ships) which hoisting *Spanish* Colours on the 9th advanced towards the Port, in Sight

Sight of which they came in the Evening. The *Spaniards*, taking them for granted to be the two *Caracca Ships*, were filled with Joy, and the Shore was presently crouded with People; but some time after perceiving they did not advance, but rather made off, though they had a good Wind and Time enough to enter before Night, it bred some Suspensions: Yet Don *Luis de Cordova*, Governor of the City, being informed thereof, made Answer, that they were alarmed without any Reason; that the two Ships which appeared were those that were expected; and that he had Letters of Advice where they were described in such a Manner as left him no room to doubt of it. He returned the same Answer to the *Castellano* of *San Juan de Ulua*, who had sent a Messenger to advise him to be on his Guard. Hereupon the *Spaniards* made Fires in the Night from the Castle and on Shore to light them in; and every Body went to rest with their usual Security.

MEAN time the Ships advancing, they came to an Anchor about two Miles from the Town, (le *Pers* says at *Old La Vera Cruz*) and before one o'Clock the next Morning landed 774 Men. *Van Horn*, who commanded the main Body, was to attack the *Plaza*, or Square, where they expected to meet with the *Corps du Garde*, but found only four Men. *Laurence*, with the Forlorn, undertook to reduce the Forts, both which he found open, and the Centinels asleep. Having in the first Place forced the Governor's House, they seized the principal Posts; so that when, on hearing some Muskets go off, the Alarm Bell was rung at the great Church, and the Soldiers began to run to their Colours, every Body was extremely surpriz'd to see the *Bucaniers* in Arms every where, and Guards set at the Ends of the principal Streets.

Thus with the Loss of only one Man killed by the *Spaniards* and three by a Mistake of the *French*, by Break of Day they had made themselves Masters of the Town and Forts; and had they, as *Laurence* advised, sent at the same time but two Cannons and 50 Men, they might without doubt have surprized the Castle of *San Juan de Ulua* seated on a Rock in the Sea, three quarters of a Mile from the Town, and mounted with 70 Guns.

They plunder the Town.

BUT the Pirates, thinking it more safe and profitable to stay and plunder the Town, took this Party. The Day being come and no Body daring to appear, because the first who shewed himself was to be thrown headlong into the Street, the Victors sent Parties to break open the Houses, where they found every Body as quiet as if they were in their Graves. They caused all the Inhabitants to quit their Houses; and shut up in the Churches the Garrison, Burgeesses, Men, Women and Children: There they left them for three whole Days and Nights without either Meat or Drink, during which time they continued plundering the Town. Afterwards they carried Water to their Prisoners, many of whom died with drinking immoderately of it. They caused also some Victuals to be given them, but in very small Quantities.

Get a great Booty.

IN this time they got abundance of Jewels and Plate, besides 350 Bags of *Cochineal*, each containing 150 or 200 Pound Weight. Yet not satisfied with this, they put the considerable People to Ransom, threatening to burn the Cathedral and all the Prisoners, (which amounted to 570) if they did not immediately discover all they had: So that the 4th Day they got more than the other three; and had 70,000 Pieces of Eight for Don *Luis's* Ransom,

Ransom, whom *Spurre* found hidden among Grass in a Stable.

THIS is the Account given by the Editor of *Sharp's Voyages*. But *le Pers* relates the matter with other Circumstances: He says, that luckily the Bishop of the City *de los Angelos*, or of *Angels*, whereon *La Vera Cruz* depends, being on his Visitation in the Neighbourhood at this time, as soon as he heard of the Extremity to which this Part of his Flock was reduced, he ran to their Assistance; and having a safe Conduct from *Laurent de Graff*, began to treat for the Ransom of the Town and Citizens. This at length was agreed at two Millions of *Piastres*, half of which was paid the same Day; and the *Bucaniers* would allow only till the next Day for the Payment of the rest: because they found it was not safe for them to remain any longer in the Place, which the Vice-Roy was coming to relieve with considerable Forces. About eleven in the Morning the Ransom, which there was a Necessity of bringing from a Distance, being arrived within five Leagues of the Place, and the Vice-Roy within ten, the *French* who had been set to watch on the Steeple of the Great Church, gave notice that a Fleet of 14 Sail appeared, which they made no doubt was the *Flota* from *Spain*.

*The Town
ransomed.*

THIS Incident, which presently took Wind, equally alarmed the *Bucaniers* as well as the *Spaniards*. The first fearing to find themselves exposed between two Fires; and the other apprehending they should be massacred by their Conquerors, if it was only to diminish the Number of their Enemies. However of the two the *Bucaniers* put the best Face upon it: But as every Moment was precious to them, they hastily embark'd all the Plunder they could, and waited on board their

*The Flota
appears,
and the
Bucaniers
retreat.*

A DESCRIPTION

their Ships for the other half of the Ransom, which was not far off. However it did not come in the time, because those who brought it stopp'd upon hearing the Guns of *San Juan de Ulua* go off, which never ceased firing from the time that the *Flota* appeared. The Approach also of this Fleet laid the *Bucaniers* under a Necessity of departing: Accordingly they embarked in their Shallops towards Night; and, to make themselves amends for the Part of the Ransom that remained unpaid, they carried off all the Slaves they found in Town, with all the Black or Mulatto Women and Girls, though free, which amounted to 1500 Persons: After which they got, without any Opposition, to the Island or *Cay des los Sacrificios*, where their Ships rode. At their passing by the *Flota* they expected every Moment to be attacked; but the *Spaniards* being in a greater Panic than themselves suffered them to pass by. The *Bucaniers* finding they let them go off with their Booty so quietly resolved to attack them, but the Fleet making haste to get into Port prevented the Engagement.

They carry
off 1500
Persons.

The Flota
afraid to
attack
them.

Van Horn
and Lau-
rence fight

THE Adventurers staid eight Days at *los Sacrificios* to receive Ransoms and divide what they had gotten, which was generally said to be 800 Pieces of Eight, a Share in Plate and Money; and they made near 1200 Shares for Men and Ships, *Van Horn* having had about fourscore Shares for himself and his two Ships. But *Laurence* and *Van Horn*, quarrelling about the Dividend, fought; and the latter being wounded in the Wrist they all embarked. After which *Van Horn* once more proposed to attack the *Flota*, and undertook to board the Admiral; but *Laurence* utterly refusing they all departed, carrying with them about a thousand Negroes and Mulattos.

Pere

Pere le Pers differs here somewhat from the *Jamaica* Letter: This Author says that the *Buccaniers* finding themselves in great Want of Water, which they had neglected to take in since their Arrival on the Coast, debated among themselves what they should do with the Prisoners; and being divided in their Opinions grew very warm in the Dispute, insomuch that the two Chiefs quarrelled and fought. The Wound which *Van Horn* received put an End to the Combat: But the Parties were not so easily pacified; and they had certainly gone to Blows if *de Graff* had not made haste to divide the Booty, and instantly set sail with most of the Ships. He had a very prosperous Voyage, and landed at *Petit Goave* whence he set out.

Van Horn staid 24 Hours on the *Sacrifice Cay* after *de Graff*, and then departed with a *Petacha* and a *Barco Longo*. His Wound was thought slight at first, but when it was least expected it gangrened, and he died 15 Days after, greatly lamented by all his Crew, who had the greatest Affection and Esteem for him. He was perhaps the most brave and resolute Man living; and if any of those under his Command discovered the least Cowardice, he caused them to be knock'd on the Head immediately. His Body was thrown over-board off *Cape Yucatan*. He left his Son, a Youth of 10 or 12 Years of Age, to the Value (as they say) of 20,000 Pounds Sterling on board; and his Lieutenant *Granmont* took on him the Command of the Ship for *Petit Goave*. *Le Pers* says *Van Horn* left his Ship to *Granmont*, who got home not without suffering the greatest Inconveniences of the Seas; especially a grievous Famine, which destroyed two thirds of his Prisoners: Besides his *Petacha* having separated from him, was taken by the *Spaniards*; and his *Barco Longo* disappeared.

Van Horn
dies of his
Wound.

His Cha-
racter.

*Gran-
mont's*
Losses;

And Success.

appeared on a sudden, and was never heard of after. However a *Spanish Ship* which he had taken, before these Misfortunes happened, had more than made him Amends for his Losses. From *Petit Goave* he repaired to *Cape Francois*, where at the Instance of the *Sieur Franquesnay*, who commanded in *Santo Domingo*, he attacked and took an *English Ship* of 30 Guns, which hovered thereabout, putting all to the Sword except the Captain, whom he brought in Prisoner with his Prize.

Laurence gets home safe.

On the other hand those who had followed *de Graff* were soon dispersed, arriving one after another in different Parts of *Santo Domingo*: Where in Spight of the Prohibitions of the *Sieur Franquesnay*, they were received every where; the Inhabitants not caring to lose so fair an Opportunity of sharing the Treasures of *La Vera Cruz* with them. Besides the Commandant having neither Fortrefs nor Garrison (and being daily harrassed by the Descent of the *Spaniards*, who laid waste the Coasts) was in no Condition to oppose them. In short having threatened to make Examples of some of the Ringleaders, 120 of them came in a Body to his House with a Design to kill him.

Spurre dies by the Way.

As to *Spurre the Englishman*, the Letter says that he and 3 or 400 more of the *Bucaniers* were reported to be dead; and that *Sir Thomas Linch*, the Governor of *Jamaica*, was endeavouring to seize his Sloop, when the Letter came away, which was in *August* the same Year.

SECT.

S E C T. III.

Of the Taking and Plundering LA VERA CRUZ another Time.

CAPTAIN Nathaniel Vring, (now Com-^{Another Attempt of the Bu-}mander of one of the Packet Boats) in his Voyages gives an Account of *La Vera Cruz* being taken by the *Bucaniers*, which he received from one *Luke Houghton* near *Cape Honduras*, where *Vring* was cast away in 1712. *Houghton* had been Prisoner at the *Havana*, and often told the Captain how both that Place and *La Vera Cruz* might be taken by the *English*: As a Confirmation of which he recounted the following Story of the surprizing and plundering the latter by the *Bucaniers*; but neither the Date of this Expedition, nor the principal Actors are mentioned; however, it seems to relate to a different Adventure from that which goes before.

THE *Bucaniers* having mustered all their ^{They land} Strength resolved upon sacking *La Vera Cruz*; ^{near the} and being arrived within sixteen or eighteen Miles ^{City.} of the Place, they anchored with their Ships and landed their Men, amounting to about six Hundred, undiscovered. That Night they marched about ten or twelve Miles, and in the Morning retired among the high Sand-Hills which lie all along the Coast. Having lain hid in the Day-time, they set forward again at Night in order to be at the Town at the opening of the Gates. Being come near it they halted, and sent a small Party who could speak *Spanish*, habited like the Country People, to seize one of the Gates as soon as it was

X

opened,

*They seize
the Gate
by Sur-
prize.*

*And take
the Town.*

opened, which they executed thus: At the opening of the Gate one of the Party mounted a Ladder, which led up to the Bastion or Tower that commanded the same; and under Pretence to beg Fire of the Centinel to light his Pipe, killed him with his Pistol, which was the Signal for seizing the Gate. This being immediately put in Execution, they gave Notice to their main Body, who instantly marched into the Town, and at the same time attacked and took another small Work, both which they guarded, and then marched into the Parade. Most of the *Spaniards* being in Bed, while all this was transacting, could not get together time enough to prevent it: But they soon took the Alarm, and forming a Body of Horse and Foot, marched in good Order thro' one of their broad Streets to attack the Enemy in Form. The *Bucaniers* being drawn up on the Parade, prepared to receive them: Part of them drew up at the End of the Street thro' which the *Spaniards* advanced, and when the latter came near enough to engage, fired upon them. They disposed themselves in such Order, that as soon as their first Rank had fired they marched beyond the Street, and the second took Place, and so the third: Thus they kept a continual Fire upon the *Spaniards*, of whom many being killed, and their Horses not able to stand the Fire, they were soon put into Disorder and routed. The *Bucaniers* pursued them, but the *Spaniards* flying out of one of the Gates into the Country, they gave over the Chace.

MEAN time the Castle of *San Juan De Ulua* taking the Alarm fired briskly into the Town, in order to drive out the Enemy: But the latter, being resolved to plunder the Place before they left it, called a Consultation, wherein it was resolved to seize the *Padres*, or Priests, who had most Authority

city and Respect among them ; and having cut off *Barbarous* some of their Heads, sent others with them in a *Expedient*, little Boat to the Castle, to present them to the Governor, and tell him from them, that if he did not immediately forbear firing, they would serve all the Priests in the same manner. The Governor, more exasperated than softened by such a Piece of Barbarity, redoubled his Fire; which the *Bucaniers* perceiving, they shut all the Gates of the Town to keep the Inhabitants in, and drove them in a Body to that Part which lay next the Castle, and was most exposed to its Fire. This had its Effect on the Governor, who, to avoid destroying them, ceased firing. After this the *Bucaniers* plundered the Town without any Molestation: Which having done they marched out, carrying with them some of the principal Inhabitants as Pledges for a Sum of Money, which they demanded for not burning it; and so retired to their Ships with very little Loss. The *Spaniards* have since that Time built Watch-Towers, and keep Centinels, all along the Coast to prevent the like Surprizes for the future.





Of the HAVANA.

SECT. I.

*A Description of the City and its Harbour;
its Strength, Trade, &c.*

*Situation
of the Ha-
vana.*

THE *Havâna* is a City and Port on the Northern Coast of *Cuba*, towards the Western End of the Island, about fifty Leagues from Cape *San Antonio*, its westermost Point. It stands almost directly South of the Cape of *Florida*, from which it is about forty three Leagues distant; and consequently commands the Gulph of *Florida*, at the Mouth of which (entering into the Gulf of *Mexico*) it is situate, and the Passage of the Straits of *Babâma*, but two Days Sail distant. It is this Situation which renders it of Importance, and for sake of which it was removed from its original Station, having been built at first on the Southern Coast, near *Matamana*, twelve Leagues distant. But the establishing of this Port proved greatly prejudicial to *Hispaniola*, being, says *Le Pers*, one of the chief Causes of the Declension of that Island. Its proper Name is *San Christoval de la Abâna*, *Habâna* or *Havâna*, that is, *Saint Christopher of the Havâna*: But originally it was called the Port of *Carennas*.

Name.

*Excellent
Port.*

THIS Port is the best in all the *West Indies*, and one of the finest in the World. It is so large that one thousand Sail of Ships may ride there commodiously

diously and safely, without either Anchor or Cable, no Wind being able to hurt them. It is so deep, that the largest Vessels anchor at a small Distance from the Shore; and there is commonly six Fathom Water. The Entrance is by a Channel about three Quarters of a Mile in Length, and so narrow, that not more than one Ship can enter at a time.

WHEN you are passed thro' this narrow Chan-^{The Har-}nel you come into the Harbour, which is a long ^{bour.} Square lying North and South. The Channel enters it at the North-West Corner: At the other three Corners it forms three Creeks or Bays. At the Bottom of that in the South-East Corner lies the Town of *Wan Abacoa*, as the *Spaniards* pronounce it, or *Guan Abacoa* as they write it, (two Leagues by Land from the *Havana*, but little more than half that Distance by Sea) which in *Cbilton's* Time had two hundred Inhabitants.

THE City is built on the West Side of the Har-^{The City.}bour, in a delightful Plain along the Shore, which rounds much, so that above one half of it is washed by the Sea. It is of an Oval Figure, and begins about a Quarter of a Mile from the Mouth of the Harbour. The Houses were first of Wood only covered with Thatch: But since the Year 1536, they began to build them with Stone, after the *Spanish* Manner. The Buildings are fair, but not high: The Streets narrow, but clean, and as strait as a Line; and even the Houses very handsome, but ill furnished. Here are eleven Churches and Monasteries, and two handsome Hospitals. In the Middle of the Town is a fine Square, the Buildings about which are all uniform: The Churches are magnificent and rich; the Lamps, Candlesticks, and Ornaments for the Altars being of Gold and Silver. There are some Lamps curiously wrought, which weigh

weigh two hundred Marks of Silver, each Mark being half a Pound.

*Founda-
tion and
Progress.*

It was built by *James Velasques* who conquered *Cuba* in 1511, as was all the rest of the Isle, with the Assistance of the famous *Bartolome de las Casas*, who afterwards becoming a *Dominican Fryer*, was made Bishop of *Chiapa* in *New Spain*, and wrote the History of the *Spanish Cruelties* in the *West Indies*. In 1561, when *Cbilton* wrote, there were but three hundred *Spaniards* in the Town. In *Herrera's* Time, about 1600, they were increased to six hundred Families: Authors differ greatly with respect to the present Number of Inhabitants. *Gemelli Carreri* says there are in it about four thousand *Spaniards*, *Mulattos* and *Blacks*; others reckon one thousand, or one thousand two hundred Families; but the Author of the History of the *Bucaniers* makes them amount to ten thousand Families, which is the most probable Computation.

*Inhabi-
tants.*

THE Inhabitants of this Port are more familiar than at *La Vera Cruz*: The Women likewise have more Liberty; yet they do not go abroad without their Veils to wrap and hide them. Many of them speak *French*, and dress after the *French* Fashion; some of that Nation having settled there since *Spain* fell to a Branch of the House of *Bourbon*. In 1703 a magnificent Festival was celebrated for fifteen Days successively in Honour of *Philip V.* and Mr. *Du Casse* being then there with his Squadron, the City desired him to join with them; whereupon he set a-shore five hundred Men, who performed the martial Exercise in the great Square, to the Admiration of the *Spaniards*.

Diet.

THE Diet most in Use is the Flesh of Hogs and Tortoises, with which all the Ships make their Provision for *Spain*. The Pork is reckoned very nourishing, and, contrary to that of other Coun-
tries,

tries, is binding instead of laxative. Gage was surprized to hear the Doctor prescribe him roast Pork after his Physic.

THE Tortoises they cut into long Slices, and dry it in the Wind after well salting it. The Sea-^{Provision for the Fleets.} men eat it boiled with a little Garlick, and say it tastes as well as Veal: They also take on board some Fowl for the Masters and Captains Tables, and Live-Hogs, which might seem enough to breed an Infection in the Ship, did they not often wash the Place where such dirty Creatures lye. In the Ship where Gage was, they killed a Hog every Week for the Masters, Pilots, and Passengers Table. Provisions are dear here, especially Bread: But the Wine is good and cheap. The Fish and Fleth are unsavory.

ITS Jurisdiction extends over one half of the^{Its Jurisdiction and Degree.} Island, as that of *San Jago de Cuba* does over the other Half. The chief Places under it are *Santa Cruz* on the Northern Side, and *La Trinidad* on the Southern.

THO' *San Jago* retains the Name of Capital, Soil. the *Havâna* is certainly the chief City in every thing else but the Name, the Governor of *Cuba* (and the Royal Officers) residing here, while *San Jago* is governed by his Deputy from thence. It is likewise a Bishop's See, whose Revenue amounts to 50,000 Crowns a Year. The Neighbourhood of the *Havâna* is the most fruitful Part of the Island, or the Part of any Value: For one sees Farms and Sheep no where else, all the Isle being very mountainous and sufficiently barren.

THE Latitude of this City was accurately observed in the Year 1717, by Don *Marco Antonio de Gamboa*, to be 23d, 11m. 52s. and consequently^{Latitude and Longitude.} it is seated within the Tropic of *Cancer*, about twenty or twenty one Minutes distant. He likewise

A DESCRIPTION

*Error of
the Maps.*

wife observed the Longitude in 1715, 1724, and 1725, by Eclipses of the Moon; and this last Year by those of the first Satellite of *Jupiter*, whence it resulted West of *Paris* 84d, 38m. 30s. and consequently 82d, 13m. West of *London*: Yet Mr. *Popple's* Map of the *British* Empire in *America* published in 1732, puts it in 23d, 21m. Latitude and 13d, 15m. Longitude; erring nine Minutes in the Latitude, and above a whole Degree in the Longitude. Others following *Herrera*, place it still more erroneously in 22d, 30m. Latitude.

*Its
Strength.*

*The Morro
Castle.*

LET us now consider the Strength of this important Place. At the Mouth of the Harbour stand two strong Castles, so that the Entrance may be defended against many hundred Sail of Ships. As to the City, it is enclosed on the Land Side with a Wall fortified with several *Bastions*; and the Side towards the Harbour is defended by another Castle, and Lines extending from thence to one of the former, wherein principally the Strength of the Place consists. The chief and strongest of these Castles is called *El Morro*, and stands on the Point, on the East, or left Hand going in. It is built at the Foot of two Hills on a Rock, with a Ditch cut therein, filled with the Sea Water. The Walls are of a triangular Figure with three large *Bastions*; and on them are planted forty heavy Cannon carrying a Ball of 24lb. From this Castle there runs a Wall or Line mounted with twelve prodigious long and heavy Pieces of Cannon level with the Water, called by way of Eminence *The Twelve Apostles*. These carry thirty six Pounders. All these Guns, or most of them, are of Brass. Between this Castle and the Sea, at the Point, is a Tower with a round Lanthorn at the Top, where a Man is continually on the Watch, who puts forth as many Flags as he descrys Ships at Sea, to give Notice to the City.

It

IT may not be impertinent to take Notice that *Significa-*
Morro signifies a Head Land, whence the Castles *tion of El*
 situated thereon often take the Name; so the Ca- *Morro.*
 stle at the Entrance of *Puerto Rico* is called *El*
Morro. Some Authors have run into Errors in
 quest of the Sense of this Word: One supposes
 the true Name to be *El Muro*, or *The Wall*, from
 the Wall or Line of twelve Guns above-mention-
 ed; Others mistake it for *El Moro*, whence, I
 presume, came the Name of *Moor Castle* com-
 monly used by the *English*.

THE Second, called the *Puntal*, and *Mesa de The Pun-*
Maria by some Authors, situate on the opposite *tal.*
 Side of the Entrance on a plain Ground, is a re-
 gular Fortification, with four good Bastions, and
 well-planted with Cannon.

THE Third is called *El Fuerte*, or *the Fort*, by *El Fuerte.*
 way of Distinction from the other two: It is a
 small but strong Work on the West Side towards
 the End of the narrow Channel; with four regular
 Bastions and another Platform, mounted with
 near sixty large heavy Brass Cannon.

BESIDES these three Forts, there are two others *Other*
 of twelve Guns each, on the Shore, at the Distance *Forts.*
 of four or five Miles from the Port: That to the
 East is called *Cojemar*, and that to the West
Chorrera. The Castles contain in all one hundred
 and twenty Guns, (one Author says two hundred
 and forty,) and are strongly garrisoned. If they
 have but Powder enough, they can never want for
 Bullets here, since we are told by *Oviedo* that there
 are dug out of the Ground, in a certain Valley,
 round and polished Stones of several Sizes in great *Fossil Bul-*
 Abundance; some as large as Musket Bullets, *lets.*
 others, as Cannon Balls of the largest Bore, for
 which Purpose they are used.

THE *Havana* was not so strongly fortified for-
 Y merly

*Is taken
and plun-
dered by a
French
Pirate.*

merly as it is at present, which made it subject to frequent Assaults. In 1536 it could not resist an inconsiderable *French* Pirate, who losing the rest of his Fleet was driven hither by Storm. Having landed his Men, he took the Place, (which then consisted of wooden Houses covered with Thatch) and would have burned it, had not the *Spaniards* redeemed it for 700 Ducats. The *French* having received the Ransom set sail: But the next Day three Ships arriving from *Spain*, and being informed of what had happened, unladed their Goods in Haste and pursued the Pirate. The Admiral, who was foremost, came at last in Sight of the Rover; but not daring to engage him alone, lay by for the other two Ships to come up. This cowardly Behaviour in the *Spaniard* giving the *Frenchman* Courage, he attacked him, who, without firing a Gun, ran his Ship on Shore, and deserted it. The second Ship, discouraged by the bad Example of the Admiral, tacked about in order to make off, which the third perceiving, he followed his Companion, so that they were all three taken. The Pirates, emboldened by this unexpected Victory, steered their Course a second Time for the *Havâna*, where they got as much more Money from the Inhabitants as before. After this, they built all their Houses of Stone, and a Fort at the Mouth of the Harbour: Nevertheless the City still lay open on the Land-Side; whereof the *English* Fleet, which cruised about in those Seas, being informed, landed not far from the Town, and entered it before Day-break. The *Spaniards*, thus suddenly surprized, fled into the Woods, while the *English* plundered the Place without any Opposition. Nor was this the last Blow which the *Havâna* received: For during the War between the Emperor, *Charles V.* and *Henry II.*

*And by the
English
Fleet.*

II. of *France*, a Ship with ninety Men, sailing from *Diepe* to *Cuba*, made themselves Masters of *San Jago*, where they found great Treasure. Thus enriched, they next set upon the *Havâna* in the Night, but were much disappointed in their Hopes, finding all the Houses empty and deserted: For the *Spaniards*, who had been so often plundered, had removed all their Goods to their Country Houses, which lay scattered up and down the Island.

WHILE the *French* were searching the Houses two Persons came under Pretence of agreeing with them for Ransom, but their real Design was chiefly to pry into the Enemy's Strength. The *French* having demanded 6000 Ducats, the Spies pretended all their Effects would not raise that Sum. Having on their Return informed their Party of the Enemy's Numbers and Demands, a Consultation was held, wherein some, judging it best to comply with Necessity, were for paying the Sum demanded in case they could get nothing abated: But as most of them alledged that it would redound to their Dishonour to give up their Effects so tamely to their Enemy when they were able to oppose them, it was resolved to dispute the Matter with the Sword. Accordingly they marched secretly with a hundred and fifty Men, who falling on the *French* by Surprise about Midnight, slew four at the first On set: But the Alarm being given by firing a Gun, the *French* recovered their Arms, and, after a slight Skirmish, put the *Spaniards* to Flight. The Victors, enraged at this treacherous Proceeding, set Fire to the Town, after they had daubed the Doors, Windows, and Pendices over with Pitch and Tarr, (a great Quantity of which happened to be in the Place at that Time) so that in a few Hours all was

Taken
again by
the French

Spanish
Treachery.

Revenged
by the
French.

in a Flame. They next burned the Churches : On which Occasion a *Spaniard*, seeing the *French* begin to daub them over for that Purpose with the same combustible Matter, boldly desired that the Temples erected for God's Service might be spared : To which he was answered, That *People who kept not their Promises, nor had any Faith, had no Need of Churches to profess their Faith in.* The Enemy, not satisfied with burning, pulled down the Walls and utterly demolished the Fort.

Fortifica-
tions.

THESE frequent Insults moving *Philip II.* to fortify the Place, he sent the Camp Master, *Juan de Texeda*, and *Baptista Antonelli*, a famous Architect, to put it in a Posture of Defence. What these Fortifications were appears in Part from *Chilton*, who informs us that in his Time, about 1568, a Castle was erected here, garrisoned by sixty Soldiers, planted with about twelve Pieces of small Cannon, and encompassed with a little Ditch, into which the Sea Water could be let at Pleasure. But it is not mentioned on which Side this Castle stood ; nor does this seem sufficient to make the Port so secure as *Herrera* says those Engineers made it : But it is probable they had not finished their Work when *Chilton* was there. In 1637, when *Gage* was there, we hear of only the two Castles at the Entrance of the Harbour : The History of the *Bucaniers* mentions a third, but says it was seated on a Hill which commands the Town. This Hill I take to be that which runs along the North Side of the Entrance. But there is no Fort there now, nor Guns, as the Author of *Ogilby's America* tells us there were, unless erected since 1720, when Admiral *Vernon* took his Plan: Altho' it is surprizing that a Place which commands both the Town and Castles should be left unfortified, since an Enemy once possessed thereof would easily

easily reduce them all. In short, the Author of the *Descriptions of the Coast* in the *Atlas Maritimus* tells us, that since 1697, when *De Pointis* took *Cartagena*, the King of Spain ordered a strong Citadel to be added; which must be the *Fuerte* in the City.

THE *Havâna* is supplied with fresh Water by *River La- a River*, which rising out of the Hills to the gida. South-West of the City, divides at length into three Streams: One of which falls into the Sea to the East of Fort *Dela Chorrera*: The other two proceed to the City, entering the Walls about the Middle of it. This River is to be seen in none of the Plans of the *Havâna* lately published, excepting that in *the Seat of War*. But you meet with it in Admiral *Vernon's* Plan; in some rude Plans to be found in Maps, where it is called *Lagida*; and in a very little, but pretty exact, Plan in *Purchass's* fourth Volume of *Pilgrims*.

THIS City is of the greatest Importance to the *Spaniards* of all the Cities in *America*, as being ^{Importance of the Havâna.} the Place of Rendezvous for all their Fleets in their Return to *Spain*; * and lying at the Mouth of the Gulf of *Florida*, thro' which they are all obliged to pass: Whence the *Spaniards*, not without Reason, call it *The Key of all the West Indies*, to lock up, or unlock the Door or Entrance to all *America*. And in effect no Ships can pass that Way

* Some, not considering that the Galleons and Flota cannot go and return the same Way for the Reasons given in the Introduction, write, that they put in here both in going to and returning from *New Spain*, and that this Port receives them twice a Year. The Author who wrote the *Descriptions of the Coast*, and Account of Trade in the *Atlas Maritimus*, falls among others into this Error; so does the Author or Editor of *Bobuns's* Geography, who supposes all the Wealth of *Spain* passes and repasses thro' it.

A DESCRIPTION

Way without Leave from this Port. Here rides the King of *Spain's* Navy, and here meet in *September* all the Merchant Ships from several Ports and Havens belonging both to the Continent and the Islands, to the Number of fifty or sixty Sail in all, to take in Provisions and Water with great Part of their Lading, and for the Conveniency of returning to *Spain* in a Body. In a word, here commonly in *September* come together all the Treasure, as one may say, of *America*, all the King of *Spain's* Revenues, with as much more of Merchant Goods, as amounted in 1637, (the Year *Gage* was there) to thirty Millions. There were in this Port the same Year fifty three Sail of Ships which met for their mutual Security, and set out on the 16th of *September*, which was sooner than ordinary, having had a fair Wind to carry them thro' the Gulf of *Babâma*.

*Its
Strength.*

As these Considerations render this Place of the utmost Importance, it is very reasonable that the Haven and City should be made capable of Defence. It would be an unaccountable Negligence to let the Place where such Fleets rendezvoused be left naked; and that the Ships, in case of a Pursuit, or of an Enemy superior to them abroad, should have no Place of Security for them to fly to, or harbour in. But notwithstanding this Place must be allowed to be very strong, and more secure against an Attempt than any other in the *West Indies*, yet we are very far from imagining that it is impregnable, as the *Spaniards* give out, and many People in *England* would persuade themselves or others. *Gemelli*, who was there about 1698, tells us the Walls of the City were poor and low; and in Admiral *Vernon's* Plan it is observed that there were several Breaches in the Walls: And tho' they may have been repaired since,

yet

yet it is not probable, from the Account Authors give of them, that they could long withstand a Force should the Place be attacked on this Side. But possibly the better way would be to land at some Distance on the East-Side of the Port, and ^{Best way} get Possession of the Hill which runs along the En-^{of a tack-}trance of the Harbour on the North Side, from ^{ing it.} whence (as *Gibson* long since observed) the Town which is commanded by it may with a few Cannon be easily reduced. This Remark is confirmed by Admiral *Vernon's* Plan. In short, the Strength of the *Havâna* seems to consist chiefly, if not wholly, in its Port, which seems impenetrable: For should the strongest Fleet attempt to enter, it must be beaten to Pieces by the Cannon of the two Forts before the Chain could be cut, by which the Passage is secured; nor does it seem practicable to reduce the Castles, especially the *Morro*, by bombarding or battering them from Ships at Sea. But all these Difficulties vanish, supposing an Enemy was to land with a competent Force. *Gage*, who was in the latter, confesses it was very strong, yet judges it might be as easily taken by Land as the strongest Castles in *Europe* have been, notwithstanding the *Twelve Apostles* above-mentioned: Such Apostles, says he with a Sneer, *would do little Hurt to an Army by Land, or marching from the River of Matanzos, which lies twenty or thirty Leagues to the Eastward.*

HOWEVER secure this Port may be to Ships ^{Galleons} within, it is no great Security to Ships without, ^{taken in} the Entrance being too narrow to give quick Ad- ^{Sight of}mittance to a numerous Fleet. Hence the Galleons ^{the Port.} have been often insulted, and some of them taken in Sight of this Port, as *Gage* observes, without being able to get in, or receive any Succour from its Castles: As (among other Instances) was the Case

Conwar-
dice of the
Spanish
Admiral.

Case of the *Flota* in its Return from *La Vera Cruz* in 1629, mentioned by *Gage*. It seems at Cape *San Antonio*, the most Western Point of *Cuba*, they met with the famous *Dutchman*, called by the *Spaniards* *Pie de Palo* or *Wooden Leg*, and as much feared by them as *Sir Francis Drake*, who waited there for them; and after he had saluted them with a Broad Side or two, the Admiral, *Don Juan de Guzman y Torres*, called a Council of War, wherein it was resolved to fly from the Enemy as the surest way to save the King's Treasure, which amounted to six or seven Millions according to their own Account, and to make directly for the River *Matanzos*, imagining that the *Dutch* would not venture in after them. But the Misfortune was they could not get in far themselves; the River being too shallow for their heavy great-bellied Galleons. This obliged them to run their Ships aground, after which the richer Sort endeavoured to escape to Land with what Wealth they could in Cabinets and Bags: But the *Dutch* coming swiftly upon them soon stopped their Flight with the Cannon from their Ships; so that, except a few Cabinets that were hidden, all the rest of the Treasure became the *Hollander's* Prize. Two Fryars, who had fleeced their Sheep of 30,000 Ducats, were thus fleeced themselves. Thus lightened of their Burdens, the Fleet went on more swiftly, but wailing, to *Spain*; where *Gage* says, the Admiral was imprisoned, and lost his Senses for a while, which having recovered, he was afterwards beheaded.

Its Trade
and Com-
modities.

ALL the Trade of *Cuba* consists in Cattle, which they kill purely for the Hides that are sent into *Spain*: They employ a great Number of *Negroes* for their Slaughter: They likewise breed
great

great Herds of Hogs, whose Flesh being cut into small Slices is dry'd in the Sun, and serves as Provision for the Ships. From hence abundance of Tobacco is carried to *New Spain*, *Costa Rica*, and even the *South Sea*, besides what is shipped for *Old Spain* and *Europe*. 'Tis famous for a Snuff to which it gives Name. Its other Commodities are *Hydes* and *Campeche Wood*, with all which the *Flota* completes her Loading. The Merchants of this Place trade into *New Spain*, *Campeche*, *Honduras*, and *Florida*.

IN *September* the Galleons, the *Flota*, and other Ships meet in this Port; and there is a continual Fair till their Departure: At what time they carry away with them more Riches than is to be found in any other Part of the World, the Total of their Cargo being seldom less than Seven Millions Sterling. They generally leave the *Havana* in *September*. Value of the Treasure.

THO' Strangers are prohibited to trade, yet a contraband Commerce is carried on brisker here than at *La Vera Cruz*. The *French*, by their Settlement in *Louisiana*, proposed great Advantages from the Neighbourhood of these two Places; and indeed some time or other they will in all likelihood command in the Bay of *Mexico*, unless the *English* make themselves Masters of the *Havana* in Time, which will prevent their doing them or the *Spaniards* any Mischief without our Leave.

As it is evident, by the repeated Breach of Treaties for twenty Years past, that the *Spaniards* are by no means to be trusted, it is become absolutely necessary for the *English* Government, if they have a Mind to secure the *British* Trade to the *West-Indies*, to possess themselves of some Place or Places there, which may curb the De-

*The Con-
quest of a
Place ne-
cessary.*

predations of the *Spaniards* on our Ships. For we being obliged to return home either through the *Windward-Passage* or the *Gulph of Florida*, and they being possessed of all the Islands, and consequently commanding all the Outlets towards the Ocean, our Ships must always lie at their Mercy, till such time as we are Masters of some one of those Islands, or at least some Port therein, which may command the *Gulph of Florida*: For as that is the Channel thro' which all their Ships in the *West-Indies* and *Gulph of Mexico* are obliged to pass, in their Return to *Europe*, we should then have it in our Power to redress ourselves, in case the *Spaniards* should at any time commit Depredations, by preventing their Fleets from going out, or seizing them in their Passage.

*The Havâ-
na the only
Place for
the Pur-
pose.*

FROM what has been said it is evident that the *Havâna* is the only Port in *America* proper for this Purpose; and that *Cartagena*, *Puerto Bello*, and *La Vera Cruz*, are all at too great a Distance from the *Gulf of Florida* to answer the End proposed; and in case we had all the three, our Ships would be in the same Condition so long as the *Spaniards* had the *Havâna*, unless they were always attended with Convoys. Besides, we could not possess any of the other Ports without obstructing the Course of the *Spanish* Trade and Treasures, which must give Offence to the Maritime Powers of *Europe*, who are greatly interested in that Trade; they having a Property in most Part of the Treasures that are brought from the *Spanish West-Indies*. If therefore we were to conquer these Places, the only way would be to dismantle or destroy them, as Admiral *Vernon* has done by the Castles of *Puerto Bello* and *Châgré*, for we ought not to keep them: But the *Havâna* might be kept by us without giving any just Cause of Offence, since
the

the Obstruction of Trade would not be the necessary Consequence of our possessing it, as it would be of the possessing of any of the others; nor would it ever be in danger of Obstruction, but where great Provocation was given: In which case we always have obstructed it by our Fleets, without any of the interested Powers taking Exceptions. So that our possessing the *Havâna* could not be construed as a Conquest to enrich ourselves with the Spoils of *Spain*, but only as a Pledge for securing our Navigation; not as robbing them of any Part of their Trade, but of tying up their Hands from destroying our's. In short, it ought to be considered only as a Cautionary Town given up to secure our Commerce in the *West Indies*, in the same manner as *Gibraltar* was yielded to us for the Security of our *Mediterranean* Trade; and indeed by the Treaty of *Utrecht* we ought to have had a Place ceded to us in *America* as well as in *Europe*: For *France*, by her Plan of Peace in 1711, proposed a real Security in both Continents; but the then Ministry treacherously took a false Security in lieu thereof; the Mischiefs of which our Trade has felt ever since, and must feel still worse for the future, unless the present Ministry repair that fatal Error now, by forcing from the *Spaniards* what was then thought our Due.

BUT our Possessions in the *West-Indies*, as well as our Trade thither, are greatly interested in the Conquest of this Port. The *Spaniards* could never digest the Loss of *Jamaica*, taken from them by *Cromwell*; they never could yet be brought to give up their Claim to it by any Treaty; and to be sure they only wait for a convenient Opportunity to recover it. Its Situation is such, being inclosed between *Cuba*, *Hispaniola*, and the Continent, that it might be invaded from those three

Objections to a Conquest answered.

The Havâna necessary to secure Jamaica.

A DESCRIPTION

And balance the Power of the French

Quarters at once ; and its Safety is the more precarious, as the *French* are possessed of all the Western Part of *Hispaniola* : So that should those two Powers at any time join in an Attempt to conquer *Jamaica*, it must needs fall an easy Prey to them for want of having some other Plantation near enough to assist it. To balance therefore the growing Power of *France*, and effectually secure that important Island, what Expedient can possibly be hit on, but the Conquest of *Cuba*, or Part of it? which will both disable the *Spaniards*, and disappoint the Hopes of the *French*, who cannot with any Face oppose such a Conquest from our Enemies, since they themselves have conquered all they possess in *Hispaniola* from them merely to extend their Dominions. If we do not secure ourselves effectually now, when it seems to be so compleatly in our Power, we shall most certainly repent it sooner or later. As the *French* aim, no less than the *Spaniards*, at driving us out of the *West Indies*, we may depend on it that the first Opportunity they will join with them to seize *Jamaica*, which the next Opportunity that offers they will seize for themselves : Thus by degrees to become Masters of the greater Islands, and so to share with the *Spaniards*, if not to engross to themselves, the Trade of the New World.

THE *French* have always taken the Opportunity of a War to enlarge their Territories in *America* at the Expence of the *Spaniards*, who are the weakest Power : And shall not we enlarge ours to secure our Trade?

But neglected formerly by the Treachery of Ministers.

THE seizing of *Cuba*, or some Part of it, in order to secure our Settlements in the *West Indian* Islands, as well as our Trade thither, has always been held absolutely necessary, not only by our Merchants, but by the Governors sent into those Parts,

Parts, who have had the Interest and Welfare of the Nation at Heart: Tho' the Ministers for several former Reigns were always such Traitors as to let slip the many fair Opportunities we have had of conquering it from time to time; preferring a Sum of *Spanish* or *French* Gold to the greatest Advantages that could accrue to the Nation. On this occasion we shall cite some Passages of a Letter written by Major *Smith*, Governor of *Santa Catalina*, or *Providence*, before-mentioned, where he was made Prisoner by the *Spaniards* when they took that Island in 1665.

“ *Cuba*, says Major *Smith*, is a very good Cuba the
 “ Island, and in it is generally, for so large a best Land
 “ Country, the best Land I have seen in *America*, in Ame-
 “ altho' I have travelled the main Continent in rica.
 “ several Places, and crossed from the North to
 “ the South Seas, as also the North-Side of *His-*
 “ *paniola*, and most Parts of *Jamaica*.

“ THIS great Island is easily to be conquered, Easily
 “ and would make the best Plantation, besides conquered.
 “ the Prejudice it would be to the *Spaniards*, and
 “ the great Advantage to our Nation: For In-
 “ stance, had we the Port and City of *Havâna*,
 “ which might in all probability be reduced with
 “ two Regiments * of good Soldiers from *Jamaica*,
 “ carrying with them two or three Sloops
 “ or Shallops for landing Men, provided with
 “ good Arms and other Necessaries for an Assault, Fittest
 “ This Descent is to be undertaken presently after Time to
 “ their *Armada* † hath passed out of the *Indies*, Havâna.
 “ which

* This shews the Stupidity or Treachery of our Ministers in those Days, not to conquer it when it might have been so easily reduced.

† That is, the *Galleons* and *Flota*.

A DESCRIPTION

How best
to attack
it.

“ which is once in two Years, towards the End
“ of Summer.

“ THERE is good Landing on the West Side
“ of the City, where it lies open, and you need
“ fear no Ambuscades : But not on the East Side
“ of the Harbour, for there you will be galled
“ by the *Moare* [or *Morro*] until the City be
“ secured : But when once that is taken, you may
“ easily reduce the Castle also, there being no
“ Danger of their retaking it till the next *Armado*
“ arrives, which will be almost two Years ; in
“ which time you will have Planters enough
“ from other of our Islands to manure the Land
“ and assist the Soldiers in Defence of the Place.

Importance
of the
Place to
Britain.

“ THIS Conquest being once effected would
“ utterly ruin the § *Spaniards*, for these Reasons:
“ Our Ships lying both here and at *Jamaica*
“ would be at all times ready to gather up their
“ straggling Fleet, which it is difficult to keep
“ imbodyed without the Help of that Port of
“ *Havâna* ; it being impossible for their great
“ unruly Ships to turn up to Windward from the
“ Bay of *Mexico*, or *Puerto Bello*, without Sepa-
“ ration : And on the other hand, to pass the
“ Gulf of *Florida* is for them impossible, *should*
“ *they lose the Havâna*, where they always rendez-
“ vous, victual, water, and provide all things
“ necessary for their Return into *Spain*. When
“ this is done, they wait for a convenient Season
“ of Wind and Weather, (being much observed
“ from the Changes of the Moon) in order to
“ pass that dangerous Streight: For to say truly,
“ the

§ Not that the taking of the *Havâna* would really ruin them, but it would put us in a way of ruining their Trade for a time, and making Reprisals, in case they provoked us by their Depredations.

“ the Spaniards are very fit neither for Sea nor
 “ Land-Service, excepting some Officers and Sol-
 “ diers bred in *Flanders*, for the latter, and a few
 “ *Biscaniers* for Sea Affairs.

“ THEY are so sensible of their Weakness, and
 “ jealous of their Riches in those Parts, that it
 “ is very difficult for any ingenious Man, once
 “ taken by them, to get his Liberty, fearing he
 “ might give such Intelligence as would be the
 “ Cause of their Ruin; witness their blind-fold-
 “ ing of all Strangers, when they pass their Cities
 “ and Castles: For they much dread an old Pro-
 “ phesy among them, *That within a short time* ^{Prophecy}
 “ *the English will as freely walk the Streets of* ^{that the}
 “ *the Havâna, as the Spaniards now do* ||; which ^{English}
 “ indeed had been easily performed with a third ^{shall possess}
 “ Part of the Army sent * to *Jamaica*, and a far ^{the Ha-}
 “ greater Advantage to the Nation: For I esteem ^{vâna.}
 “ that Port and Harbour of the *Havâna* in the
 “ *West Indies*, to be as great a Check upon the
 “ *Spaniards*, as *Tangier* in the *Streights of Gi-*
 “ *braltar*; and if we were once Masters of both,
 “ they would without doubt be so straitened, as
 “ absolutely to admit us a free Trade into their
 “ Ports of *America* †, where they import our
 “ Commodities, and sell them for ten times more
 “ than they first cost in *Spain*, by reason of the
 “ great Plenty of Silver: Which Trade would not
 “ only be of great Advantage to us, but also
 “ prevent

|| This Prophecy might have been fulfilled many Reigns ago, if our honest Ministers had not stood their Friends: But it is more likely the *French* will get it, if we do not take it this time.

* By *Cromwell*, under *Pen* and *Venables*,

† This to be sure we should be able to force them to do: But that is not our Design.

“ prevent their future enslaving of our Nation in
 “ Chains, as they now do § : For being em-
 “ ployed about their Fortifications, they are worse
 “ used, all things considered, than if they were
 “ taken by the *Turks* || .

*Easy to
 seize the
 Spanish
 Treasures.*

“ I HAVE seen other Parts of the *West Indies*,
 “ where the *Spaniards* might be fleeced of confi-
 “ derable quantities of Riches : As at *Panama*,
 “ where their Silver-Bars lie piled up in Heaps in
 “ the open Streets Day and Night, without Guard,
 “ for five or six Months together, waiting the
 “ Arrival of the *Armada* ; which when arrived in
 “ *Puerto Bello*, they transport it thither with so
 “ slender a Guard for so great a Treasure, that it
 “ would be an easy Prey for a thousand resolute
 “ Men, the Expence of whose Expedition would
 “ be small in comparison of the Prize. But there
 “ is no resting, or long-tarrying *about the Business*,
 “ the *Spaniards* being numerous here, as in all
 “ other Places of the Main-Land : Altho’ they
 “ are of great Wealth, it might easily be gotten
 “ with a Catch and away.

*Products
 of Cûba.*

“ THIS Island of *Cuba* hath, adjacent to it,
 “ great Conveniencies of Salt and Fishing ; and
 “ in it is very great Plenty of Horses, Neat,
 “ Sheep, and Hogs both wild and tame, of a far
 “ larger and better Breed than in any other Part
 “ of *America*. It hath also many very rich Mines
 “ of Copper already open ; and is the only Place
 “ that supplies all the *West Indies* with Metal for
 “ the infinite Number of Ordnance they have in
 “ all

§ What time since *Cromwell's* Death have we been free
 from *Spanish* Cruelty ?

|| Sir *Walter Raleigh* sayed the *Spanish* Slavery was worse than
 the *Turkish*, as in reality it is.

“ all their Ports and Castles, both in the North
 “ and South Seas; but whether it hath any Mines
 “ of Silver or Gold, I know not: But if there
 “ were any such, they would not adventure their
 “ Opening and Discovery, fearing the Invasion
 “ of that Island, which is of so easy Access by
 “ Sea, and of such great Importance to their
 “ whole Interest in *America*: For which Reason
 “ also they refuse to work any Mines in *Florida*,
 “ that are nigh to the North Sea, (altho’ they
 “ have there very many) but do rather employ
 “ themselves about others farther up in the Coun-
 “ try, altho’ with greater Labour and Cost, for
 “ Conveyance of the Produce by Land to *Mexico*.

“ LASTLY, this Island (to compleat its Praise) ^{Importance}
 “ hath many very good Ports and Harbours of ^{of this}
 “ great Advantage to Ships for safe passing the ^{Island.}
 “ Gulf; and should the *Spaniards* keep two or
 “ three Frigates always plying off and on between
 “ the Western End of *Cuba* and the *Havána*, it
 “ were impossible for any Ships of our’s that came
 “ from *Jamaica* to escape them. The Scales
 “ turned would be their case to all *America*.
 “ Neither wants it great Sugar-Works, which
 “ have both Water-Mills and Horse-Mills, and
 “ very many large *Cocoa*-Walks; the most and
 “ best Tobacco: In short, it produces all other
 “ Commodities that any of our *American* Islands
 “ have Knowledge of.

CUBA is an Island of vast Extent, stretching ^{Its Extent}
 in Length no less than 11 Degrees from East to ^{and Situa-}
 West, which make about 610 Miles in that Pa- ^{tion.}
 rallel: But is very narrow in proportion; its
 Breadth, in some Parts, not exceeding 12 or 14
 Leagues. It lies 18 Leagues to the West of *Hi-*
spaniola, 25 to the North of *Jamaica*, 37 to the
 East of *Jucatan*, and as many to the South of

A a

Cape

A DESCRIPTION

Cape Florida. Thus it is so situate as to command the Entrance of the *Gulph of Mexico*, the *Gulph of Florida*, and the *Windward-Passage* : Wherefore it may not improperly be called *The Shield of the West-Indies* ; and so long as the *Spaniards* are in Possession of it, they can annoy the Trade of other Nations, and secure their own with a tolerable Fleet.

Necessity of conquering it. HENCE it appears of what Importance the conquering of *Cuba* must be to *Great Britain* : Which would thereby be possessed of the same Advantages *Spain* at present receives from it; and become a Balance to the Power of the *French*, which is grown very great in the *West-Indies*. But the subduing some Part of it seems absolutely necessary. We have already shewn the great Benefits that would accrue to us from the Acquisition of the Western or the *Havana* Part : And if we seize the Eastern Part, of which *St. Jago* is the chief City, we shall thereby keep open the free Navigation of the *Windward-Passage* to our Shipping ; prevent the *French*, who have already seiz'd the West Part of *Hispaniola*, from settling also in *Cuba*, a Thing they have long had in View ; and effectually secure *Jamāica*, which being hemmed in between those Islands and the Continent, may be invaded from all those Quarters at once.





Of SAN AGUSTIN.

SECT I.

The Description of the Town and its Port.

THIS Place called *San Augustin*, or *San Augustin, de la Florida*, for the Spaniards spell it both ways, is situate on the Eastern Coast of *Florida*; about seventy Leagues from the Mouth of the Gulf of that Name (or Channel of *Babâma*) in the Northern Ocean; 30 South of the River *Alatamaha*, or *May*, as the *French* call it; and 47 from the Town and River of *Savannah*. As to its Astronomical Situation, we have as yet had no Observations made there to be depended on as exact. *Herrera* places it in 29d. 45s. Some in 29d. 30s. *Riccioli* in 29d. 15s. Mr. *Popple's* Map makes the Latitude 30d. 10s. But that given by *Herrera* is followed by *Del 'Isle*, and seems to be nearest the Truth.

THE City runs along the Shore, (at the Bottom of a Hill, which is planted with Trees) in the Form of an Oblong Square. The Streets are strait, and intersect each other at Right Angles. It is built thickest towards the Castle, which lies to the North of the Town about a Mile distant. About three Quarters of a Mile to the South, by the

Name and Situation.

The City described.

A DESCRIPTION

the Sea-side, is a Monastery of *Augustinians*; and about a Mile farther, there falls into the Sea a little River running from the North-West, which, about a Mile and Quarter from its Mouth and the Town, is covered with a Wooden Bridge.

*The Castle
its
Strength.*

THE Castle, which stands also on the Shore at the Foot of the Hill, is built of soft Stone, with four Bastions. The Curtain sixty Yards in Length, the Parapet nine Feet thick, the Rampart twenty high, Case-mated underneath for Lodgings, arched over, and newly made Bomb-Proof. There are fifty Pieces of Cannon mounted in the Castle, sixteen of which are Brasses, and some twenty four Pounders. They have been for some time working on the Covered-way, which is near finished. The Town is entrenched with ten Saliant Angles, each defended with some Cannon. Behind the Castle on the West Side is a Morass, which secures it on that Side.

*Rise and
Progress of
San Agustín.*

IN 1586, when Sir *Francis Drake* took *San Agustín*, the Town only consisted of Wooden Houses, and the Fort was built of Wood also; the Walls being of Trunks of Trees set close together. It seemed to have been but newly begun, it being unprovided with a Ditch, or other Matters necessary for its Defence, excepting fourteen Pieces of Cannon, which were mounted on a Platform made of the Bodies of Trees, filled up with Earth. In 1665 it was a small City with a Castle, which had two hundred Men in Garrison: But they could not prevent its being pillaged by Capt. *John Davis*, with seven or eight Boats of Pyrates. The Fort then, according to some Authors, was octagonal, having at each Angle a round Tower in which the Soldiers kept Guard.

THE Spaniards observing how the *English* encroached upon them towards *Florida*, built *San Mateo*

Mateo and *San Agustín*, to secure what remains on the Eastern Coast; and these are all the Places they possess on that Side. *San Mateo* is a small Place, about fifteen Leagues to the North of *San Agustín*. It was attempted by the *English* in 1715, and formerly besieged: But they were obliged to desist with considerable Loss.

The Port is formed by an Island, and a long ^{The Port.} Point of Land divided from the Continent by a River, which falls into the Sea about two Miles above the Fort. This Island called *Eustacia*, also *Metanzas*, or *Slaughters*, (from a Slaughter made there by the *Spaniards*) is long and narrow. It begins due East of the Castle, and extends about ten Miles Southward along the Coast, leaving a Channel between it and the main Land. This Channel at the South-End is above a Mile over; and on the Continent stands a *Spanish* Look-out or Watch-Tower, called *Romo*. The Channel at the North End is less than a Mile in Breadth; the Entrance to which from the Sea lies between the Island and the Point of Land, and is more than a Mile and Quarter wide.

A LARGE Sand-Bank lies before this Mouth ^{The En-} of the Channel, having two narrow Passages thro' ^{trance nar-} it, one called the North, the other the South ^{row and} Channel: There are also Sand-Banks within ^{shallow.} the Channel. In short, according to our Accounts from thence, the Waters about it are so shallow (as they are every where on the Coast of *Florida*) that no Ships of Force can come within three Leagues of either Town or Castle. But the *Spaniards*, to overcome this Inconvenience, are provided with armed Row-Gallies, which being under the Command of the Castle Guns are a great Defence to the Place: As are likewise the two Rivers before-mentioned, that fall into the Channel, and serve to obstruct

A DESCRIPTION

obstruct the Approach of an Enemy. However, some Authors make this Channel to be very deep as well as wide; and the Plan of *San Agustín* and its Harbour, inserted in *the Seat of War*, represents it such.

Britain's
Title to
San Agustín.

According to the Charter of King *Charles II*, dated *June 30, 1665*, which fixes the Limits of *South Carolina* at 29 Degrees of Latitude, *San Agustín* is built within the *English* Dominions, and consequently belongs to us, as a Forfeiture. It is true, the *Spaniards* say, that Grant is an Invasion of their Right; they pretending a Right of Possession to all the Coast as high as *Virginia*. But if the first Discovery gives a Title, which is that whereon the *Spaniards* generally ground their Pretensions to their *American* Dominions, we shall find that it belongs to us: For Sir *Sebastian Cabot* discovered it about the Year 1497; tho' afterwards it was more thoroughly navigated by *John Ponce de Leon*, a *Spaniard* from *Puerto Rico* in 1512.

S E C T II.

The Taking of the Town and Fort of San Agustín by Sir FRANCIS DRAKE.

Drake
sails for
San Agustín.

CAPT. Drake having arrived at *Cape St. Antony*, the most Western Point of *Cuba*, the 27th of *April 1586*, (as hath been mentioned before Page 31) after a short Stay set forward for the *Havâna*: But after beating the Seas for fourteen Days, he was forced back again by contrary Winds. However, to make Amends for this cross Accident, they found a large Supply of Rain-Water (newly fallen as was judged) in Pits, which

which they found in the Marshy Ground near the Sea-side, having then been in great Want of Water.

THREE Days being spent in watering the Fleet, *He anchors in Sight of it.* (on which Occasion the General was as diligent as the meanest Sailor) they departed *May* the 22d a second time from *Cape St. Antony*, and sailing thro' the Channel of *Babâma* in Sight of the Coast of *Florida* on the 28th, they perceived a Place like a *Beacon*, or Light-House, on the Shore: Upon which manning their Pinnaces, they landed, and marched up along the River-Side, *Drake* himself heading them; and perceiving a Fort newly built by the *Spaniards* on the other Side of the River, prepared to batter it down with their Cannon. The first Shot struck thro' the Ensign, as they were informed by a *Frenchman* who came to them from the Enemy; another Shot struck the Foot of the Fort, which was built with Timber.

It was resolved to pass the River the same Night with four Companies, and attack the Fort in Form: But Lieutenant-General *Carlile* going *The Spaniards forsake the Fort.* in a Skiff with six Captains more to reconnoitre the Place, the *Spaniards* thinking the whole Fleet had been come were seized with a Pannic, and after they had shot off a few Guns, presently forsook the Hold. However, the Lieutenant-General returned without knowing any thing of the Matter; but was presently followed by a *French* Piper, who came piping towards them in a little Boat, and being questioned by the Guard, told them he had been a Prisoner among the *Spaniards*, and that they had abandoned the Fort. Upon this Intelligence the General, Lieutenant-General, and some Captains in their Skiff, accompanied with three Pinnaces filled with Soldiers, went over towards the Fort; from whence at their Approach
some

A DESCRIPTION

some of the Enemy, who, bolder than the rest, had stayed behind, discharged the Artillery at them; but proceeding on their Design, they went ashore, and entred the Place without finding any Man there.

The Condition it was found in

WHEN Day appeared they saw that this Place, called *Saint John's Fort*, was built all of Timber, the Walls being only great Mafts, or Trees placed close together like Pales. But as yet they had not made a Ditch about it, nor put it in a tolerable Condition of Defence: So that being easily set on fire or assaulted, it would have been Folly to have withstood an Attack. The Platform for the Guns was the Trunks of tall Pine-trees (which grow thereabouts in Plenty) laid one across another, and filled up with Earth. They found there fourteen great Brass Cannon, and a Chest locked, with about 20,000*l.* in it, thought to be the King's Money for Payment of the Garrison, which were about one hundred and fifty Men.

The Town taken.

HAVING thus taken Possession of the Fort, they designed to march by Land to the Town or Village, which was about a Mile beyond, consisting of Wooden Houses, and without Walls: But being prevented by the Rivers and broken Ground in the Way, they embarked again on the River, called as well as the Town, *Saint Augustine*, and sailed to it. As they approached the Shore in order to land, some *Spaniards* appeared and gave them a few Shot, but presently withdrew; the *English* pursued them, and the Serjeant-Major finding a Horse in the Road ready saddled and bridled, mounted him, and followed the Chace before the rest; when suddenly from behind a Bush he was shot thro' the Head, wherewith falling to the Ground, two or three *Spaniards* rushing upon him, stabbed him with their Swords and Daggers

Daggers in three or four Places of his Body, before any could advance to rescue him.

HERE the General understood, that in this Town the King maintained 150 Soldiers, and 150 more at *Santa Helena*, 12 Leagues distant towards the North, only to secure those Coasts from being inhabited by other Nations. The Governor was the Marquis *Pedro Melendez*, who had the Command of both Places, and yet ran away from them with the first.

ON this Advice the General resolved to attempt *Santa Helena*, and then to find out the *English* inhabiting *Virginia*. Accordingly he set Sail from *St. Agustín*, and on the 9th of *June* observing a great Fire on Shore, he dispatched his Skiff to the Place, where they found some *Englishmen*, (sent thither the Year before by Sir *Walter Raleigh*) one of whom coming on board directed them where to meet with a good Harbour. From thence the General sent a Letter to Sir *R. Lane*, Governor of the *English* in *Virginia*, who was then at his Port, in an Island called *Roanoac*, about six Leagues from the Road, and at length thought fit with his People, being in all 103, to return for *England* with the rest. They left this Coast *June* 18, and arrived safely at *Plymouth* *July* 20 following.

THE Profits of this Voyage, including what they got at *Cartagena* and elsewhere, was valued at threescore thousand Pounds, whereof those who went the Voyage were to have 20,000 *l.*; and the other 40,000 *l.* came to the Adventurers. They lost about 750 Men, whereof eight were Captains, four Lieutenants, and eight Gentlemen. They got about 240 Pieces of Cannon, above 200 of which were Brass.

S E C T. III.

An Account of the Attacks made by the English upon San Agustín since the Time of Sir Francis Drake ; particularly the Siege carryed on this present Year 1740, by General Oglethorp.

SINCE the Expedition of Sir Francis Drake, *San Agustín* has been attacked three Times by the *English*, tho' only once with Success.

San Agustín taken by Capt. Davis.

THE first of these Attempts was by the *Buccaniers* in 1665, under the Command of Captain *John Davis* ; who having, with great Conduct as well as Valour, surprized and plundered the City of *Nicaragua* in *New Spain*, the Pyrates presently after their Return to *Jamaica*, of which he was a Native, chose him Admiral of seven or eight Vessels destined for fresh Adventures. He began the Exercise of his new Command by directing his Squadron towards the Northern Coasts of *Cuba*, there to wait for the *Spanish* Fleets in their Passage home from *New Spain* to *Europe* : But missing of his Design, after long hovering about, they determined to steer for the Eastern Coast of *Florida* ; and arriving near the City of *San Agustín* landed Part of their Men : And tho' there was a Castle with a Garrison of 200 Soldiers, yet they sacked the Place without receiving the least Damage either from them or the Townsmen.

THE next Siege of this Place was in 1702, when *England* being at War with *France* and *Spain*, the People of *Carolina* undertook to attack the *Spaniards* of *Florida*. Accordingly they drew together 600 *English*, and as many *Indians*, commanded by Colonel *Moor*, the then Governor.

He

He did some Harm in the open Country, and then laid Siege to Fort *San Agustin* for near three Months : At the End of which, seeing two *Spanish* Ships making towards it, he broke up in a Consternation, and marched back to *Charles-Town*, 300 Miles by Land; leaving his Ship and a great Quantity of Stores, Ammunition, and Provision to the Enemy.

Before we enter upon the late Siege of this Place, it may be proper to mention some Particulars previous to it.

The Settling the Colony of *Georgia* in 1732-3, *The Colony as a Frontier for securing the Southern Provinces of the British Dominions on the Continent against the French and Spaniards, who daily advanced on that Side, was a great Eye-sore to both those Nations. The many Improvements made in that Province and Carolina, and the Harbours now discovered there, which lie convenient for Cruizing, render them the Objects of their Envy; and the more these Provinces improve, the stronger will be their Desire of getting them: For Georgia is the Key of all North America.*

The beginning of the Year 1736, the *French* had prepared an Army of 2500 *Whites* besides *Indians* to attack *South Carolina*: But the Advice of a Peace, put a Stop to their March. The *Spaniards* on the other hand seemed to prepare for War likewise. In *August* the Governor of *San Agustin* sent to Mr. *Oglethorp* (the Founder of the Colony) demanding that the *English* should evacuate all the Country to the South of *St. Helens Sound*, and consequently to abandon *Georgia*, to which they thought fit to lay claim. However, the *Spanish* General of *Florida*

The Spaniards lay claim to it.

A DESCRIPTION

General
Oglethorp
arrives
with For-
ces.

and Council of War signed a Treaty with the Colony, which began to be in a flourishing Condition. But this was no more than an Amusement like the rest of their Treaties: For next Year great Preparations for invading *Georgia* went forward at *San Agustín*, tho' nothing was done; and the landing Forces from *England*, first in *May* 1738, and then in *September* following under the Command of Mr. Oglethorp, seemed to put a Stop to the intended Invasion of the *Spaniards*, who chusing to wait for the *English*, who in their Turn threaten'd them a Visit, had Recourse to more secret Machinations. Towards the end of the Year a Proclamation was published there, promising Freedom and Plantations to all who wou'd desert to them, which in a little Time drew over 700 *Negros*, and caused others to rebel. The Enemy, likewise, from time to time, made Incursions and did the Colony some Damage.

He pre-
pares to be-
sieve *San*
Agustín.

At length General Oglethorp, impatient to take Revenge on the *Spaniards* for the many Insults they had committed, having gathered what Forces he cou'd, resolved to put his long meditated Design in Execution. Accordingly, about the End of *April* 1740, he advanced towards the *Spanish* Frontiers, where he was to be met by several *Indians* from the *Uchees*, *Chickasaws*, and *Talapuses*. About the same time the Men of War and Transports with Troops sailed from *Charles Town* to assist in the Siege. On his Approach the *Spaniards* had poisoned the Waters about the Castle. Being come within seven small Leagues of the Place he took two Castles, both situate on a large Lake: That on the South Side he demolished, but kept the other on the North Side, called *Manchicolas*, defended by some Pieces of Cannon, one Serjeant, and ten Men, who surrendered on the second firing. It was surrounded

Takes seve-
ral advan-
ce d Forts.

with

with strong Palisadoes above eight Foot high, having Loop-holes seven Foot from the Ground : but by means of a Parapet within, near three Foot in height, they became Breast-high. The General caused a Ditch to be made round it, leaving thirty Soldiers and a Boat well manned to guard it, in order to straiten the Enemy.

IN *June* following, he took another Fort in the same Quarters called *San Diego*, the Garrison surrendering Prisoners of War. Upon the Reduction of which, and two other small Forts in the Neighbourhood of the Place, the Townsmen retired into the Castle. But as the Approach to it on that Side was very difficult, by reason of the Rivers, Morasses, and other Obstructions, General *Oglethorp* marched back to join the rest of the Troops, at *San Agustin*, by Sea. He had left in one of the Forts, called the *Negro Fort*, 130 Men under the Command of Colonel *Palmer* : But soon after he had withdrawn the rest of his Forces, a Detachment of 500 *Spaniards* and *Indians* came and attacked it before Day. Tho' the Place had no Gates, the Colonel defended himself with great Bravery, killing four Men with his own Hand. His Ensign likewise distinguished himself gloriously ; having received eighteen Stabs before the Colours could be wrested from him. After this the Enemy became Masters of the Place, thirty five White-men with ten *Indians* being killed, and twenty seven made Prisoners. But another Account says, most of the Garrison was cut to Pieces.

Heroic behaviour of two English Officers

MEAN Time every thing was in Motion for carrying on the Siege of *San Agustin*. The 1st of *June* the *Flamborough* Man of War, Capt. *Pearce*, the *Phœnix*, Capt. *Fanshaw*, the *Tartar*, Capt. *Townshend*, and the *Squirrel*, Capt. *Warren*, of 20 Guns : Likewise the Sloops *Spence*, Capt. *English Men of War before San Agustin.*

A DESCRIPTION

Capt. *Laws*, and the *Wolf*, Capt. *Caudridge*; being the North *America* stationed Ships, arrived without the Harbour of *San Agustín*, where the *Hector* had been for some time before.

ON the 2d, Colonel *Vander Dussen*, with 300 *Carolina* Soldiers appeared to the North of the Town, posting himself at the Point of Land before-mentioned to the North of the Entrance of the River of *San Agustín*, called also *Matanza* River.

The General arrives and lands with his Men.

THE 9th, General *Ogletborp* came by Sea from the South Parts of *Georgia* with about 300 Soldiers, and as many *Indians*.

ON the 10th, all the Men of War's Boats, manned and armed, carried them a Shore under Cover of the small Ships Guns. They landed on the Island of *Eustatia* (or *Matanzas* as some call it) which consists chiefly of Land and Bushes, to the South of the South Breakers, or Sand Banks, which help to form the Entrance of the Harbour. This they did without Opposition.

And Encamps.

ON the 12th, they took a Look-out about two Miles to the North of the Landing-place, and at some Distance from the Shore, where there was a Land-Battery; which the Enemy quitted on the Approach of the *English*. The General pitched his Camp about a Mile farther on the North Coast of the Island, where there were Wells which supplied both the Army and Ships with Water.

The Castle and Town Bombaraded

ON the 13th, Capt. *Warren* went in a Schooner (taken by the *Shoreham* off *Cuba*) with other armed Sloops and Periagoas into the Harbour of *San Agustín*, and lay directly opposite to the General's Camp, just out of Cannon reach; and there anchored till the 26th, when the Sailors were employed in landing Ordnance and other Stores within reach of the Enemy's Guns at Noon-day.

day. The Undauntedness which they discovered on this Occasion was surprizing. The same Night two Batteries were raised: One called the Northern, near the Northern Coast of the Island, and opposite to the Castle, on which it played with three Eighteen-Pounders, and a large Mortar of more than 2400 Weight; the Southern Battery was near the Western Shore, fronting the Town, consisting of three Eighteen-Pounders, and two small Mortars: But from a Marsh hard by they played with twenty Cohorns; tho' they seemed to be at too great a Distance to do any serviceable Execution.

THE 27th, the General summoned the *Spanish* The Gover- Governor to surrender, who sent back Word, *he nor sum-* should be glad to shake Hands with him in his Castle. mon'd.

This haughty Answer was occasioned by a dear-bought Victory, which 500 *Spaniards* had obtained against 80 *Highlanders*, who having been surprized in their Sleep, 50 of them were slain: But they dyed like Heros, killing at least three Times their Number before they were over-powered.

THE 29th, bad Weather obliged the Men of War (out of which only one Man had been killed) to put to Sea in order for their Return. Where- The Siege upon the Siege was raised: But as yet the raised. Particulars thereof have not been made public.

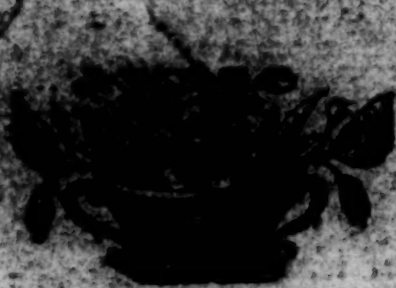
THERE were employed in this Expedition about 200 Seamen, 400 Soldiers, and 300 *Indians*; a Force much too small to subdue 1000 *Spaniards*, secured by a strong Castle: Besides four armed Barks, and a shallow River hindering our Ships from approaching near enough to reach them with their Artillery.

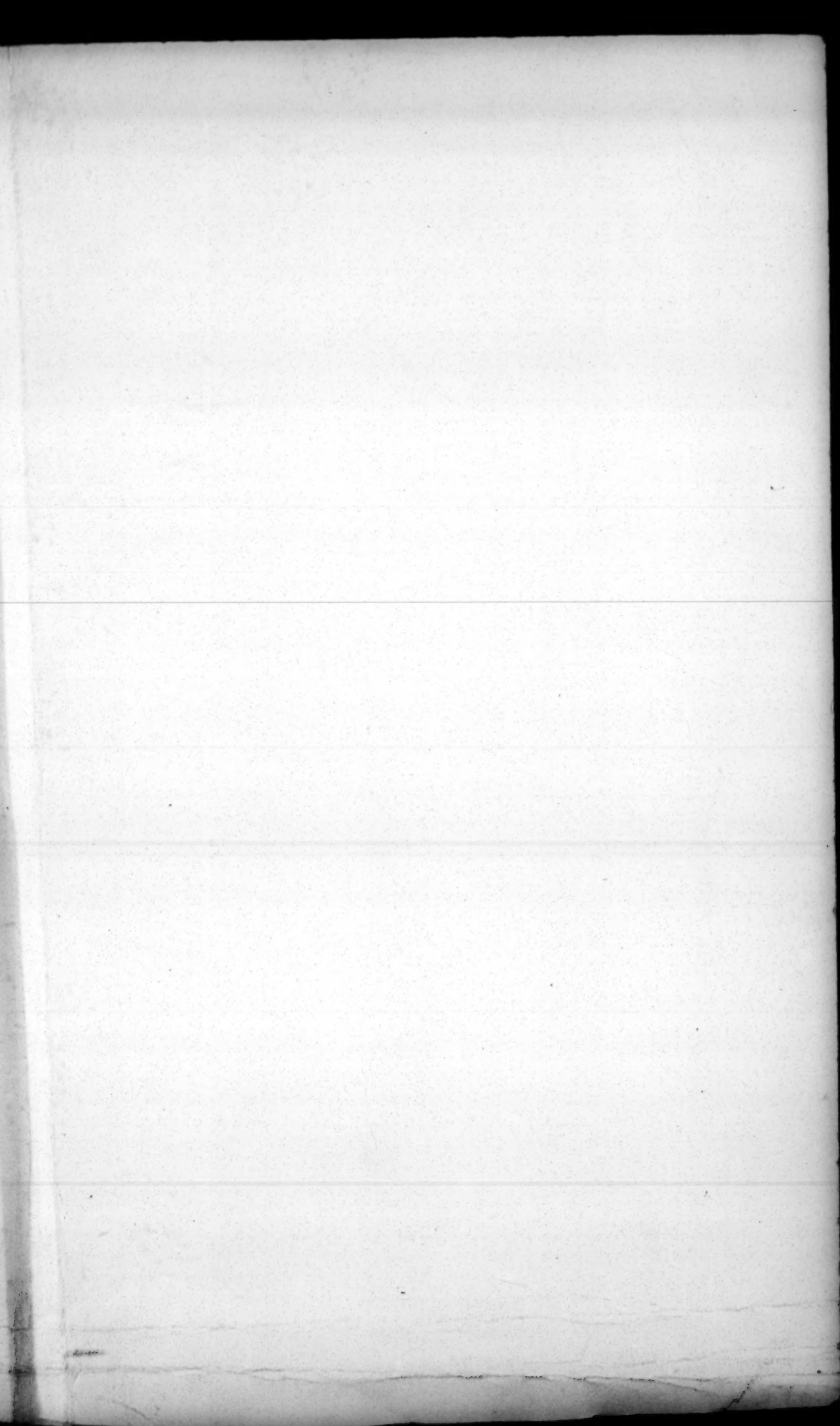
THE Possession of *San Agustin* would certainly Importance be of great Importance Great Britain: For first it of the Place would secure our Southern Settlements on the Con- to Britain. tinent

A DESCRIPTION, &c.

inent against any Attempts of the Spaniards by Land; then it would be of great Service to our Trade, not only by depriving them of a Port from whence they might annoy us on that Side, but also as it would enable us to annoy them on Occasion, by cruizing on their homeward-bound Ships coming from the Gulf of *Florida*, and Streights of *Babâma*. However, it lies at too great a Distance from the Mouth of those Streights (at least 70 Leagues) to be so serviceable on that Occasion as the *Havâna*; besides the Harbour is too shallow to make a Station for Men of War.

F I N I S





A DESCRIPTION, &c.

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F I N I S.



